FERRETING OUT FERRETS ON THE INTERNET

modern FERRET™

THE FERRET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

#9

For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™

$4.95
$6.95 CAN

- HOW TO EQUIP A CAGE
- HOW TO SOCIALIZE A BABY FERRET
- HISTORY OF FERRETS
- MICROCHIPPING: I.D. OF THE FUTURE
- LOTS OF CARE TIPS

& much more!

FULL COLOR CENTERFOLD POSTER

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU ...

03>
0 74470 88032 5
Golly gee! A UPC!

FERRETUDE?

When your ferret cops an attitude, or as we like to say, "Ferretude," chances are he's not too thrilled with the ferret products you offer! Stay on the furry friend's good side with Eight In One's exceptional line of ferret-approved food and care products.

From our Ultra-Blend Diet and Ferretbites Gourmet treats, to our Ferretone and Ferretvite supplements or Vitasol multivitamin...Eight In One's Ph.D. Animal Nutritionists have designed a complete diet to help you meet a ferret's every nutritional need. Because keeping him happy means keeping him healthy.

And don't let a dull coat and an "ugh" odor dampen the ferret's demeanor. Keep his "Ferretude" in check with Eight In One's professionally formulated and tested Ferretsheen line of shampoos and sprays. Their gentle cleansers and odor-tackling enzymes help maintain a clean, glossy coat and an agreeable aroma.

If all of the above still isn't enough to beat back the "ferretude," try the new Ultra-Blend Fish, Beef and Chicken dinners which provide exceptional palatability and variety. Another way to stay on his good side is to add Ultra-Blend's new Fruit and Crunch Treat. He'll love the exciting combination of nutritious fruits and crunchy morsels.

Why not ask for Eight In One's exceptional ferret products at your local pet store? They're attitude adjustments for even the most fickle ferret.

VITAMIN & MINERAL ENRICHED
ULTRA-BLEND
FRUIT & CRUNCH TREAT
EXCITING AND NUTRITIOUS COMBINATION OF FRUITS AND CRUNCH MORSELS FOR FERRETS
NET WT. 5 OZ.

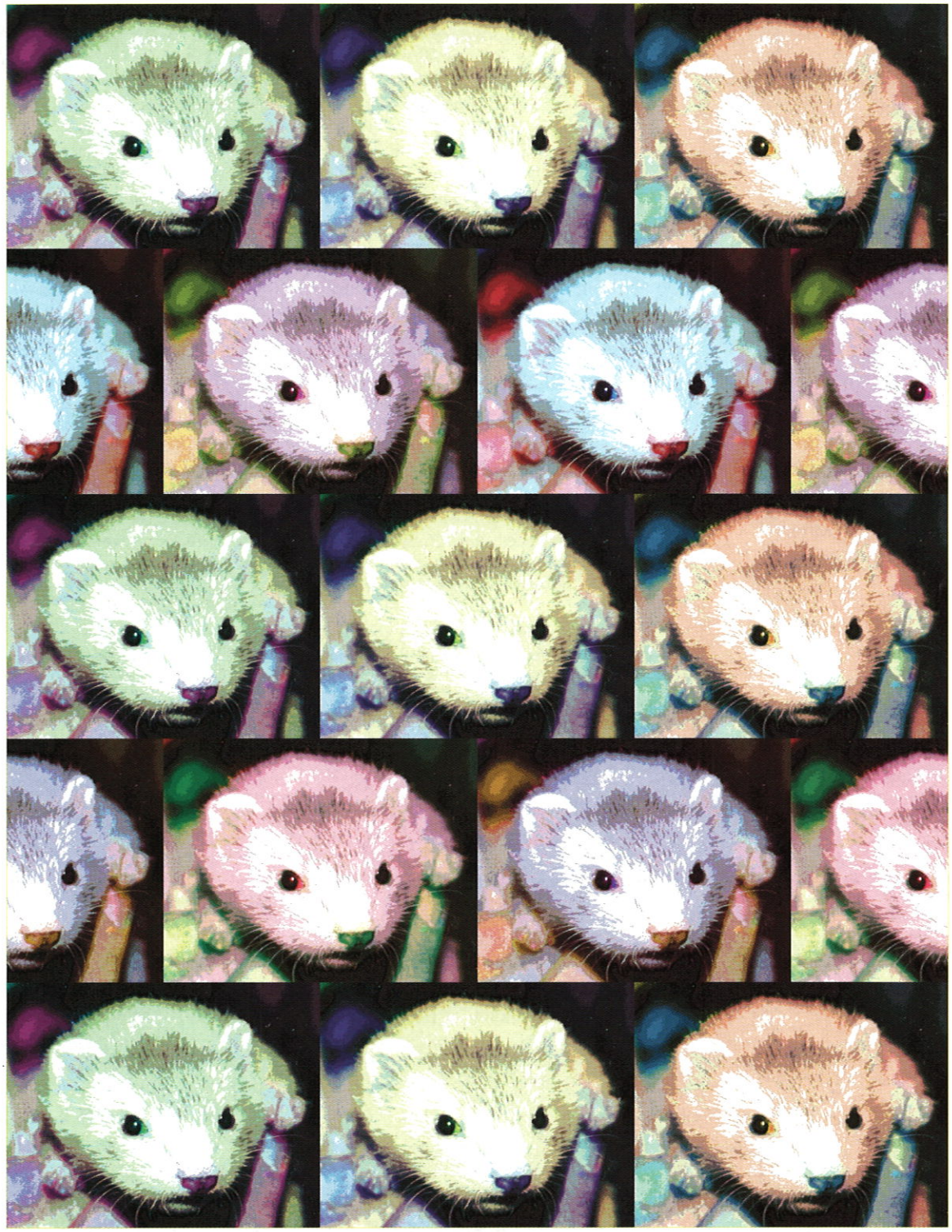
NEW STUFF!

FERRET APPROVED

Eight In One Pet Products, Inc.
2100 Pacific Street, Hauppauge, NY 11788 • Tel: 516-232-1200 • Fax 516-232-1206

8 in 1 Pro®

I want all the colors!



(Warhol version)

Minding Your Own Business™

Mary and Bosco and Trixie

Have you hugged your mustelid today?

The Modern Staff:

Mary Shefferman - Editor-in-Chief
Eric Shefferman - Designer
- being fuzzy -
Sabrina
Ralph
Marshmallow
Knuks
Trixie
Bosco da Gama
Rest in peace... Barnaby
- also helping -
Dr. Bruce Williams - Medical Editor
Ted Schiffman - Photography Editor

Modern Ferret, The Ferret Lifestyle Magazine, Frank 'n' Fritter, Wally Weasel, Ferretted Fairy-Tails, Minding Your Own Business, Doctor to Doctor, The Doctor Is In, Wide World of Ferrets, For ferret owners. By ferret owners., The Ferret Directory, The Ferret Trading Post, and Pink Noses are trademarks of Crunchy Concepts Inc. Other trademarks referenced herein are used in an editorial fashion only to the benefit of the owner, no infringement is intended.

DISCLAIMER. All opinions expressed in *Modern Ferret*™ are just that — opinions. For all important matters, *Modern Ferret* suggests that you consult your own doctors, lawyers, veterinarians, astrologers, family, specialists, etc. for their opinions. Then form your own opinions. It works out for the best. *Modern Ferret* strives for accuracy, but we're only human — or at most, weasels. :-)

Advertisments for companies, products, and live animals are accepted in good faith. *Modern Ferret* assumes all advertisers are on the up-and-up and we cannot accept responsibility for the claims or actions of any advertiser. As any Brady Bunch fan knows, caveat emptor (let the buyer beware).

All offers/contests are void where prohibited, taxed, or otherwise frowned upon by the powers that be.

FRONT COVER:
Photo by Eric Shefferman
Featuring Stormtrooper
courtesy of Nina Trischitta and John Freer

I'm always overcome with giggles when I see a ferret sleeping with his tongue out. It doesn't matter how many times I've seen it, it always strikes me as funny. I love to watch ferrets sleep ... and eat ... and play. Publishing *Modern Ferret* gives me the wonderful opportunity to watch our ferrets nearly all the time as they interact with one another. Each ferret has his own personality. That's not just a ferret owner's biased observation. Well, maybe it is. Still, there are many aspects of each ferret's behavior that differentiates him or her from another.

For example, Sabrina is our head ferret. She leads the game of chase and decides when the game is over. She chooses the sleeping spot and other ferrets pile on top. For whatever reason, Knuks is attuned to the pain and joy of others. If one of the other ferrets doesn't feel well, she sleeps on top of him (or her) and seems watchful. When another ferret wants to play, she's ever-ready. Her mothering instincts were particularly evident as she gently welcomed Trixie and Bosco (our two new kits) and helped them gain confidence in play-fighting.

Marshmallow is like Knuks, very gentle. He has a nurturing attitude and a good deal of patience. He also has an impish side. He likes to steal the other ferrets' toys just to get a rise (or poofed tail) out of them. Ralph, on the other hand, seems to think that a ferret is a ferret and should be able to take a little roughing up. This could simply be a result of his deafness — he has no way of knowing when another ferret is yelling "uncle!" He's also a bit of a loner. Although he doesn't mind company, he doesn't always seek it out.

The new kits are just assimilating into the family business (so to speak), so it's hard to tell where they'll ultimately fit in with the others. Trixie is a very strong-willed ferret, though Sabrina quickly put her in her place. She also likes to cuddle, which is unusual for a young kit. Bosco was a frightened little baby when we brought him home. Each day we see him getting bolder and bolder (not to mention bigger and bigger). He has a frenetic energy about him that takes him from one end of the room to the other faster than light.

What is perhaps most amazing is that all our ferrets seems to get along very well — sort of a functional family. The occasional squabble is never long-lived. However the two new additions turn out, we can be certain that they're joining a family that seems to have a real affection for one another. And I get to watch.

Here's something weird. I've always been a writer. I don't really recall when I started (14 years old? 12? Birth?). If anyone had ever told me that the first book I would have published would be about ferrets, I would never have believed them. A collection of poetry? All right. But ferrets? Well, that's exactly what happened. I wrote a book about ferrets, and Howell Book House published it. Look on page 6 of this issue for more information about the book.

— Mary

Phone: (516) 799-1364
FAX: (516) 797-4021

Internet: modferret@aol.com
ferrets@modernferret.com

WWW: http://www.modernferret.com

Modern Ferret Vol. 2 No.3 1997 (ISSN 1080-6784) is published bimonthly by Crunchy Concepts Inc., PO Box 338, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762 USA.
The entire contents of *Modern Ferret* are copyright ©1997 by Crunchy Concepts Inc. (except as individually noted) and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or in part, without written permission. *Modern Ferret* is a trademark of Crunchy Concepts Inc. and Modern Ferret Magazine is a division of Crunchy Concepts Inc. All rights are reserved. The subscription price is $24.95 for one year in the US shipped via third class bulk mail. The subscription price is $34.95 for one year in the US shipped via first class mail in a sealed plain wrapper. The subscription price is $34.95 USD for Canadian subscriptions. All other countries please inquire.
POSTMASTER: send address changes to *Modern Ferret*, PO Box 338, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762.
PRINTED IN CANADA

Printed in CANADA

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!
- IF YOU HAVE MOVED:

Please notify us promptly of any address changes by mailing us your new address. Otherwise we don't know where you are and can't mail your issues to you. Thanks for your cooperation!

- ABOUT YOUR LABEL:

The little number next to the "EXP:" is the number of the last issue of your subscription. This way you can tell when you're getting near the last issue of your subscription (horror!). The best way to ensure that you never miss an issue of *Modern Ferret* is to make sure that you renew your subscription in a timely manner.

Modern Ferret™

Vol. 2 No. 3

For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™

Contents:

Now you be good, little girl!
See page 34!

Identify ferrets electronically!
See page 18!

There's ferrets on the internet!
See page 30!

HOPPITY!

HIPPITY!

FEATURES:

12 How to Equip a Cage
13 Ferret Renaissance '96
18 Microchipping in Ferret Shelters
22 The Photos You Didn't Get To See
24 The Time Out
29 Chewed Toys Warning
30 Ferrets on the Internet
34 Bringing Up Baby: Nip Training
36 The History of Ferrets
43 Ferret Owner Survey

DEPARTMENTS:

2 Minding Your Own Business™
3 Your Wacky Table of Contents! (You are here.)
4 Pink Noses™ Photo Contest Winners!
7 Reader Mail — Box 338!
8 The Ferret Directory™/Advertiser Index
10 The Latest Word
14 Funny Ferret Tricks Contest Winners
23 Tricks For Treats: Dead Ferret!
25 Special Advertising Section
28 Marshmallow Explains It All
38 MYOB 9th Issue Special!
42 Our Special Subscription Offer — Send $$$
45 Contests! Contests! Contests!
46 Ferret Events Calendar
48 Ralph's Reviews
50 Ferretted Fairy-Tail™
52 Reader Art page!/Mission Statement

Pink Noses™

Kelly Socha of Avon OH
with her favorite pet — Sleepy

Early settler ferrets — Daisy & Iggy
along with Colleen & Scott Lorfing
of Spearfish SD

Mitchell D (D for Dingbrain) and Nichole (age 4)
by Jill Schaffer of Philadelphia PA

They're gonna walk all over you!
Photo of Sandra Lissette Victorino
being walked on by Flea & Jasmine
taken by Derek Kouyoumjian
from Cambridge MA

The family that showers together...
Eric Berglund (we assume) with Rocky
Photo by Irene Berglund of Oliver Springs TN

Anna and her banana
Photo by Alicia Drakiotes of Marlborough NH

Look Ma! No cavities!
Autumn loves to play on and IN this bearskin rug
Photo by Gerald Switzer of Baltimore MD

Sir Galahad (called Gallie-had) at 4 months
Photo by Jo Fowler of Tewksbury MA

Mark Cummings of Raritan NJ
has fur-lined sleeves (courtesy of Sandy)
Photo by Linda Cummings

Putz proves you don't have to be smart to be famous
Photo by Stephen Fleischman of Media PA

Hey — we warned you they'll walk all over you!
Photo of Rasputin & Precious walking all over
Ron Hunter of Chicago IL

I see a nose at the end of the tunnel... what do you see?
Pavlov & Sigmund by Katie Adair of Dallas TX

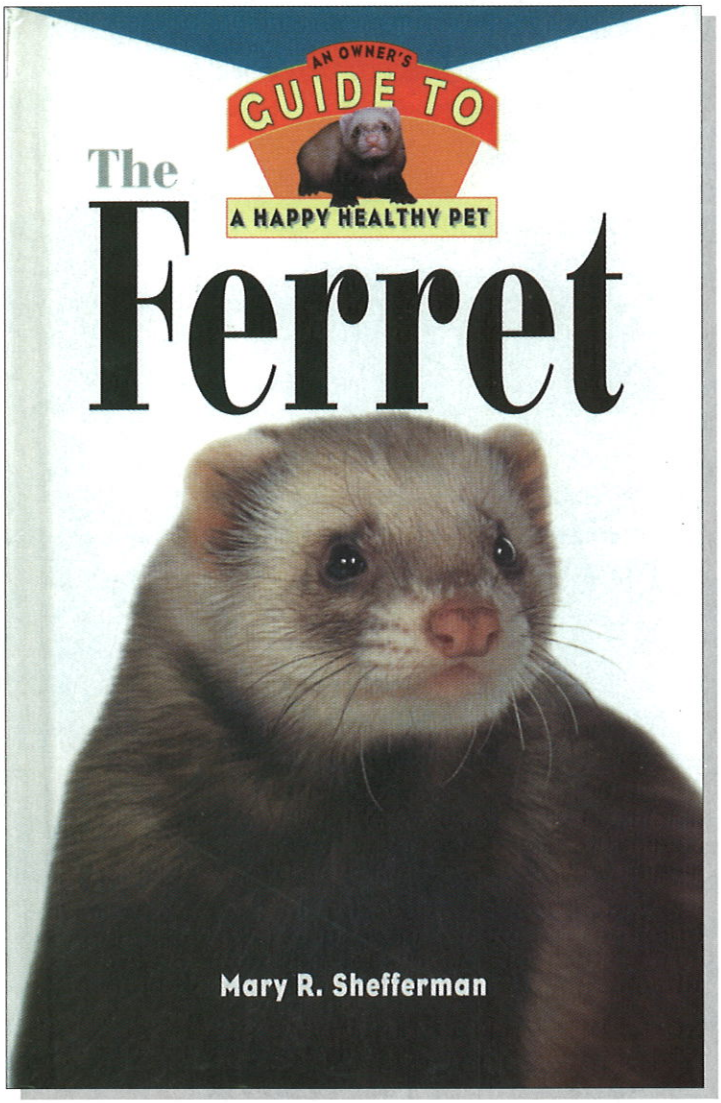
Pink Noses™
is sponsored by
Four Paws
Products Ltd.

Four Paws®
Products Ltd.

THE NEW FERRET BOOK

WRITTEN BY MARY R. SHEFFERMAN

EDITOR OF *MODERN FERRET* MAGAZINE



Q: What are the symptoms of a life-threatening intestinal blockage?

When we first got ferrets, we wanted to learn everything we could about taking care of our furry kids (we still want to learn everything we can!). We searched everywhere for every bit of information we could find. Now we've created a book that collects everything on basic ferret care. It will be your resource for care information. It covers such topics as:

- The world according to the ferret
- Bringing your ferret home
- Feeding your ferret
- Grooming your ferret
- Keeping your ferret healthy
- Training and socializing your ferret

and more!

SIGNED BY MARY! IF YOU REQUEST IT!

This hardcover reference is filled with information-packed tips and sidebars and nearly 100 professional-quality color photos, *The Ferret* is both enjoyable and easy to learn from.

A: From page 87 of *The Ferret: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet*:

Signs of intestinal blockage include vomiting, refusal to eat or decreased appetite, dehydration, absence of stool, small or "skinny" stool, straining, lethargy and depression. If you notice any of these symptoms, take your ferret to the vet immediately...

$12.95 per book plus a shipping & handling charge per book. Mary will happily sign your book for free, if you request it.

United States	*$3.00 shipping per book*
Canada & Mexico	*$4.00 shipping per book*
Western Europe	*$8.00 shipping per book*
Pacific Rim	*$10.00 shipping per book*

US orders send check or money order. Foreign orders send international money order in US Dollars or check clearable through the US banking system drawn in US Dollars payable to:

Modern Ferret • PO Box 338 Dept M9
Massapequa Park NY 11762 USA

IF YOU WANT YOUR BOOK SIGNED BY MARY, PLEASE REQUEST IT WITH YOUR ORDER! THANK YOU!

8 1/2" by 5 1/2" Hardcover!
126 colorful pages of up-to-date ferret info!
$12.95 + shipping (see chart)

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Use this coupon or write neatly on a separate piece of paper.

☐ ***YES! Check this box to have Mary sign your book!***

SEND THE BOOK TO:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Howell Book House
ISBN: 0-87605-498-X

Please allow 2 to 8 weeks for delivery. Orders ship via US Mail.

NY State residents add applicable sales tax.

If you want your book signed, please remember to request it.

If you don't want to cut up this form, write neatly on a separate sheet of paper.

TRUST RALPH

BOX 338

Letters to *Modern Ferret*

Oddly enough, our address is: Modern Ferret · PO Box 338 · Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Editor's Note: Thanks to everyone who sent us holiday cards. It's wonderful to have so many warm wishes! — Mary, Eric & the ferrets

Dear Mary, Eric & Crew!

Thanks for the article in #7 on insulinoma. We're having White Weasel tested today since she has shown signs. We also found out Panda has the "adrenal" thing and will be having surgery in January. We were amazed to find that we had geriatric ferrets now. We thought 3–4 years old made them teenagers. We're buckling down for the fight. I just started Veterinary Technician school and plan on specializing in (what else?) ferrets, so I can help others... wish me luck!

— Julie and Kenny Brandt and Panda & White Weasel (ferrets), Casey (dog), Motorhead & Sami (cats) & Monster Weasel (ghost ferret), Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Editor's Note: We wish you the best of luck in becoming a vet tech. Thank you for the card!

Dear Modern Ferret,

Enclosed you will find some pictures of some of my ferret family. I have 7 ferrets at the present time. I have had 9 in the past. I lost one baby to a couch and found a home for one that had been given to me. (I wish I would have had your article on the danger of couches sooner.)

I started my ferret family over 3 years ago with a male sable I call "Trouble." I went to the pet store to buy a puppy, but couldn't bring myself to pay what they charge for dogs today. Since then I have bought some of my ferrets for their kind personality and color, like "Snoopy" a black-eyed white and "Friskie" who is silver. And some of my ferrets are given to me because their owner couldn't keep them for one reason or another.

I find them to be a lot of work, but the love they give to me is worth it. We go for walks on a leash. They all have their favorite toys, favorite litter pan, and bed. They are each unique in their own way. The girls at the vet's office love to see them come to visit, and I take them to Juvenile Diabetes Support Group meetings to teach the children about something else besides their illness.

I really enjoyed my first *Modern Ferret* magazine ...

I'm sure you'll be hearing from me in the future.

Your new friend,

Becky Stevens, Ashland, NY

Dear Modern Ferret,

I would just like to comment on how wonderful I think your magazine is. I just finished reading #8, and I really loved the Pink Noses and the centerfolds (which are hanging all over my room). I also really enjoyed the special report on California — since I live here in California, I cannot own a ferret, but I really would love one! I was wondering if you could add a little section for California legal updates, and if you could add a couple more pages for more Pink Noses! By the way, how come Sabrina doesn't have a page?

Nikki, Dana Point, CA

Editor's Note: Answers: 1. As always, we'll keep everyone updated on the California situation as we receive new information. 2. We receive tons of photos for the Pink Noses contest, but until we can add more pages to the magazine, we're going to stick to the two pages we currently have. 3. Sabrina will have a chance in next issue to tell all about her surgery to remove a benign adrenal tumor (she's doing great!). Stay tuned. — Mary.

Dear Mary, Eric & Assorted "Fur-Worms,"

Every time I come across a pet magazine featuring ferrets I buy it. This is the first one I've read virtually cover-to-cover and carried around with me to review for a week! Bravo! It's about time someone came out with a real ferret magazine!

A good friend of mine spent Thanksgiving in Indiana with her family and brought home issue #8 as a gift for me. The Ralphspotting poster and matching postcards are too perfect! And Marshmallow is the wisest of ferrets (no offense intended to my five-year-old Chelsea, of course!).

I also wanted to let you know that I for one will be writing to [California] Gov. Wilson. My mom and step-dad want me to come and work in San Diego to live near them, but I'm NOT leaving my baby behind all summer and I'm really concerned about bringing her down with me. I was surprised to see the suspect numbers: 500,000–1 million ferrets in CA! (heh! heh! heh!)

I think this is the beginning of a long and beautiful friendship. I haven't learned this much about ferrets since I first discovered them nearly 10 years ago!

Thanks!

Christina Keimig, Puyallup, WA

The Ferret Directory™

Hey folks!

For those of you who try calling us to get basic information, there's just too many of you and too few of us. Try contacting one of these national ferret organizations.

The AFA has a toll-free number you can call for ferret information of all kinds.

STAR ferrets will send you a listing of your local ferret resources if you send them a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

Both of these organizations have more resources than we do to help you find ferret things near you, so take advantage of them!

National & International Organizations

American Ferret Association, Inc. (AFA)
PO Box 3986
Frederick MD 21705
1-888-FERRET-1 (toll free)
Goals: Promote, Protect & Provide for the domestic ferret.
Source of ferret related information from the country's leading ferret experts.
Reference library for ferret related data.
Veterinarian referrals.
Shelter/Adoption Rescue referrals.
Breeder referrals.
Provide educational seminars and demonstrations.
Sanction Championship ferret shows nationwide.
Developed and Maintain professional ferret show system including Standards & Titles.
See events calendar for AFA events.

STAR* FERRETS
Pamela Grant
PO Box 1714
Springfield VA 22151-0714
STARFeret@aol.com
FREE listing of your state's ferret clubs, shelters, vets, & resources for self-addressed stamped long (#10) envelope. Quarterly newsletter $12.00/yr. Shelter and ferret business starter package $3.00.

For display advertising information contact: (516) 799-1364 Mailbox 3

Advertising Index - Issue #9

20	Accupath
24	Animal Connection
32	Animals Alive
40	Big Apple Ferrets
21	Critter Shop
16	Discount Master Animal Care
C2	Eight In One Pet Products Inc.
17	Expo USA
19	Ferret Calendar, The
41	Ferret Curiosity Shop
47	Ferret Fun Factory, The
C4	Four Paws Products Ltd.
29	Kritter Kages
23	L'Avian Pet Products
31	Little Paw Publishing
35	Parrots of the World
11	Performance Foods Inc.
C3	Sheppard and Greene
33	Something Productions
37	Stationery Ferret, The

SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT MODERN FERRET!

Advertising Deadlines
(subject to change)

Issue #	Commit Date	Materials Due Date
11	3/28/97	4/14/97
12	5/30/97	6/13/97
13	7/31/97	8/15/97
14	9/30/97	10/15/97
15	12/1/97	12/15/97

We must have your advertising request by the commit date. Materials and payment are due by the due date.

Advertising information for The Ferret Directory™

For **National & International Organizations**, call us at 516-799-1364 for information.

For **Clubs**, **Breeders**, and **Shelters & Rescues** advertising in The Ferret Directory™:

A **Basic Listing** includes:
- Name of club, breeder, or shelter
- Contact person
- Address
- Phone number
- E-mail address

Note: If you do not want your address or phone number published, please let us know. We recommend that you do publish your city and state so ferret owners will know if you are nearby. Please let US know your address and number so we can send you a copy of the issue containing your ad or contact you.

Pricing for Basic Listings:

Clubs: **$30** per issue
Breeders: **$30** per issue
Shelters/Rescues: **$20** per issue
Additional words are available at **$1** per word.

Payment is due with the advertising copy.
Pre-pay for 5 issues and the 6th issue is free.
Take a display ad also and receive a free "See our ad on page XX" in your listing.

Send advertising to:
Modern Ferret • PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762

The Ferret Directory™

Clubs

California

Ferrets Anonymous
PO Box 3395
San Diego CA 92163
(619) 584-8427
legalin95@aol.com
An organization dedicated to legalizing domestic ferrets in California. Local meetings and ferret merchandise. Contact us for a sample newsletter.

New York

Big Apple Ferrets
Susan Morrow
PO Box 4022
Grand Central Station
New York NY 10163
(212) 388-8652

New York Ferret's Rights Advocacy
David J Guthartz
94 Jeffery Lane
Oceanside NY 11572
(516) 536-6615

Western New York & Finger Lakes Ferret Association & Rescue
Deborah J Riccio
296 Benton St
Rochester NY 14620
(716) 473-7292

Virginia

Loudoun Area Ferret Fanciers, Inc. (LAFF)
Dina Callow, President
PO Box 5441
Herndon VA 20172
(540) 364-4811
Largest active ferret club in Northern Virginia, memberships nationwide. Quarterly newsletter, *LAFF Lines*. Sponsors high quality, well attended championship ferret shows twice yearly (see events calendar). Semi-monthly meetings, annual Fun Match, picnics & educational seminars/ demos. $20 annual membership (LAFF event and product discounts).

Breeders

Ohio

Unique Impressions Ferrets
Doug McKay
1029 State Highway 61
Marengo OH 43334
(419) 253-1921
For Michigan callers — Denison Enterprises
(517) 323-8936
Ferret stock reduction sale. All colors. Fantastic coats. Hundreds to choose from. Spayed, neutered, and breeding stock. Voted Top USA Ferret Breeder in 1996 by NAFA.

Virginia

Just a Business of Ferrets Ferretry
Vickie L. McKimmey
42111 Demory Terrace
PO Box 2371
Leesburg VA 20177
(703) 777-2112 eve & weekend (24 hour help line)
(703) 771-5266 weekdays
Private breeder, ferrets will not be shipped. Excellent temperaments with strong conformations. Championship lines, over ten "Best in Shows." English bloodlines available. Blaze, Champagne, DEW & Mitts in many colors.

Shelters & Rescues

Florida

Ferrets in Paradise Rescue & Adoption
Karla Franck CVT
PO Box 522813
Marathon Shores FL
33052-2813
(305) 743-6738

Illinois

F.A.I.R. Ferret Shelter
Mary Van Dahm, Director
Westchester IL 60154
(708) 681-3181

New Hampshire

Ferret Wise Rescue & Rehabilitation Shelter
Alicia or Dino Drakiotes
PO Box 561
Marlborough NH 03455-0561
(603) 876-4975
ferretwise@top.monad.net
Quality adoptions to qualified homes. Foster placements on occasion.

New York

T 'N' T Ferret Rescue & Shelter
Tami & Tommy
Bellmore NY 11710
(516) 826-4065

Ohio

Ferret Sense
Linda Harrah
PO Box 61
Buckeye Lake OH 43008
(614) 929-3392

Pennsylvania

WarmFuzzy Ferret Rescue
Shirley Hertzog
Maidencreek Rd
RR 2 Box 2118
Fleetwood PA 19522
(610) 926-9087
warmfuzzy@aol.com
Designers of the Velcro harness and ferret tote.

Shelters & Rescues (cont.)

Virginia

Just a Business of Ferrets Shelter
Vickie L. McKimmey
42111 Demory Terrace
PO Box 2371
Leesburg VA 20177
(703) 777-2112 eve & weekend (24 hour help line)
(703) 771-5266 weekdays
No-kill ferret shelter. Rescue, placement & referrals. Adoptees available, Fervac-D CDV current. Ferrets will not be shipped. Information available, send long SASE.

The Latest Word

Marshall Farms Files Lawsuit Against California Fish and Game Commission

Marshall Farms, USA, Inc. of Wolcott, NY, filed suit against the California State Fish and Game Commission on December 9, 1996. The lawsuit seeks to overturn the Fish and Game Commission's earlier decision that the Commission does not have the authority to remove the ferret from California's list of prohibited animals. The lawsuit seeks to compel the Commission to: 1) comply with the Fish and Game statute which clearly states that the Commission does have the authority to remove the ferret from the list, and 2) actually make the decision to remove the ferret from the list.

In addition, the suit claims that California's current ban on ferrets adversely affects pet companies such as Marshall because it precludes them from selling ferrets in one of the largest pet markets in the United States.

Ferrets Anonymous Chairman Pat Wright Charged With Ferret Possession, Will Challenge Ban in Court

As a result of a ferret bite incident last year, Pat Wright, founder and chairman of California legalization group Ferrets Anonymous (FA), has been charged with possession of a "wild animal" in addition to four other misdemeanor charges stemming from the incident. In California, ferrets are erroneously classified as wild animals and are banned. In addition to the "possession" charge, Wright was charged with concealing an animal subject to rabies, violating a quarantine order, failure to isolate a biting animal, and child endangerment.

In an interesting turn of events, Wright and the San Diego City Attorney's office reached an agreement: Wright has pled guilty to a charge of concealing information and the office has agreed to not drop the possession of a wild animal charge. The concealing information charge carries a penalty of a $100.00 fine and 160 hours of community service. The other misdemeanor charges against Wright were dropped. The stage is now set for Wright and FA to challenge California's ban on ferrets in court. A new court date is set for April 30. Wright hopes to use the case to demonstrate in court that ferrets are a domestic animal and thus should not be subject to the ban on wild animals in California.

Wright and FA were also named in a lawsuit brought on behalf of the boy who had been bitten by the ferret, which they later claimed ownership of (the actual owner chose to remain anonymous). The lawsuit against Wright and FA was settled on December 18, 1996, with the organization paying the boy, $2,000. Wright said that settling the suit was less expensive than going to court, which would have cost some $7,000 in legal fees.

For updates, contact FA at:

Ferrets Anonymous
P.O. Box 3395
San Diego, CA 92163
(619) 584-8427
e-mail: legalin95@aol.com

For more information about this case, see "Ferrets Anonymous Being Sued" on page 11 of *Modern Ferret* issue #8.

Coloring Book to Benefit Needy Ferret Shelters

A group of concerned ferret owners on the internet is producing a ferret coloring book to benefit needy ferret shelters in the United States and Canada. The coloring book, expected to be available soon, is drawn by Linda Gaylord, whose art captures the curiosity and the joyful nature of ferrets (as seen on greeting cards from The Stationery Ferret). All profits will go to help ferret shelters keep resident ferrets well cared for. The coloring book is designed to appeal to adults and children alike, while helping a good cause.

Price and shipping date have yet to be announced. To have your name added to the mailing list to receive an announcement when the coloring book is ready, e-mail Judith White, Ela Heyn, or Georgia Wood at ferreton@pond.com, or write to them: 1236 Belfield Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026-4211.

T-Shirt Offer From Eight in One Pet Products

Eight in One Pet Products announces the Ferretude T-Shirt offer. To get the T-Shirt with the Ferretude ferret (from the Eight in One ads), send in three (3) UPCs from Eight in One UltraBlend ferret food. Include a check or money order in the amount of $9.99 plus $2.00 shipping and handling (NY residents add 8.5% sales tax equaling $0.85). Don't forget your name, address, city, state, and zip code. Send to: Eight in One Pet Products Inc., c/o Ferretude, 2100 Pacific St., Hauppauge NY 11788. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

☞ See the special subscription offer on page 42!

In Their Own Words...

What Ferret Owners Have To Say About *Totally Ferret*®

"Thanks for a great product! Mitzi, Cindy, Sammi & Jasmine love it. Keep up the good work."
A. Minsky
Mansfield, OH

"People like you are a work of love. We potentially save money in the long term from improved health & reduced vet bills, not to mention peace of mind & happier ferrets."
J. Chenault
Gerton, NC

"I'm very pleased with your food. The ferrets love it."
V. Brueggeman
New York

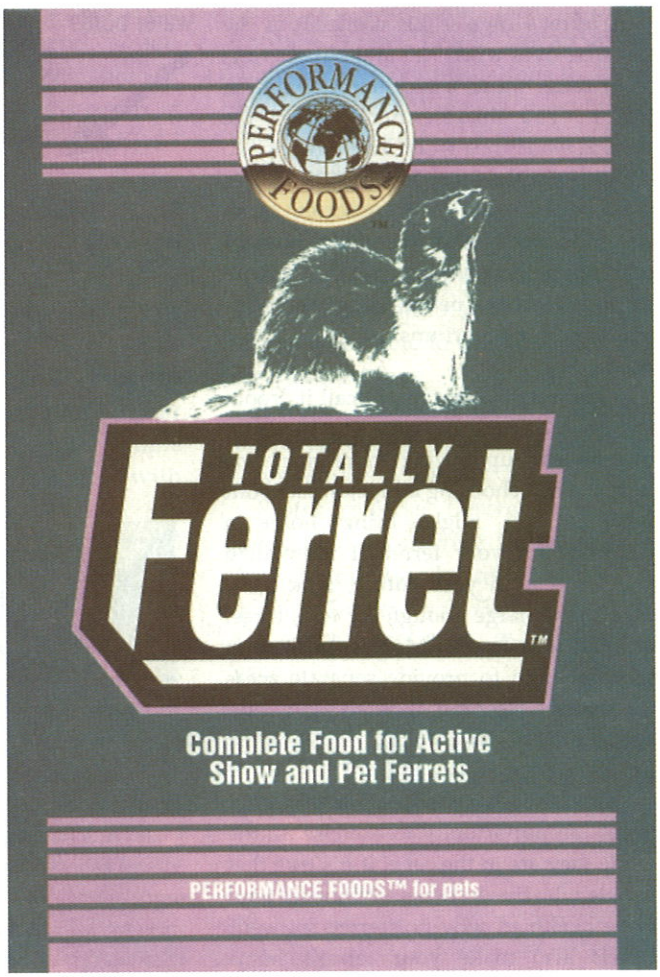
"It is better than the other ferret foods and better for them. We want what's best. Thank you!"
K. Berndt
Melrose Park, IL

"Our ferrets love it and have been friskier since switching to it."
R. Raymond II, Esq.
Newport, RI

"My ferrets went wild over the sample you sent. I am very pleased with the ingredients and the ferrets have smaller stools! Thanks for a great product."
B.L. Martin
E. Brunswick, NJ

"Thanks! Great product!"
E. Francis
Eugene, OR

"Thank you for creating *Totally Ferret*®."
E. Delos
New York



Performance Foods, Inc. and *Totally Ferret*®
Two names you can trust!

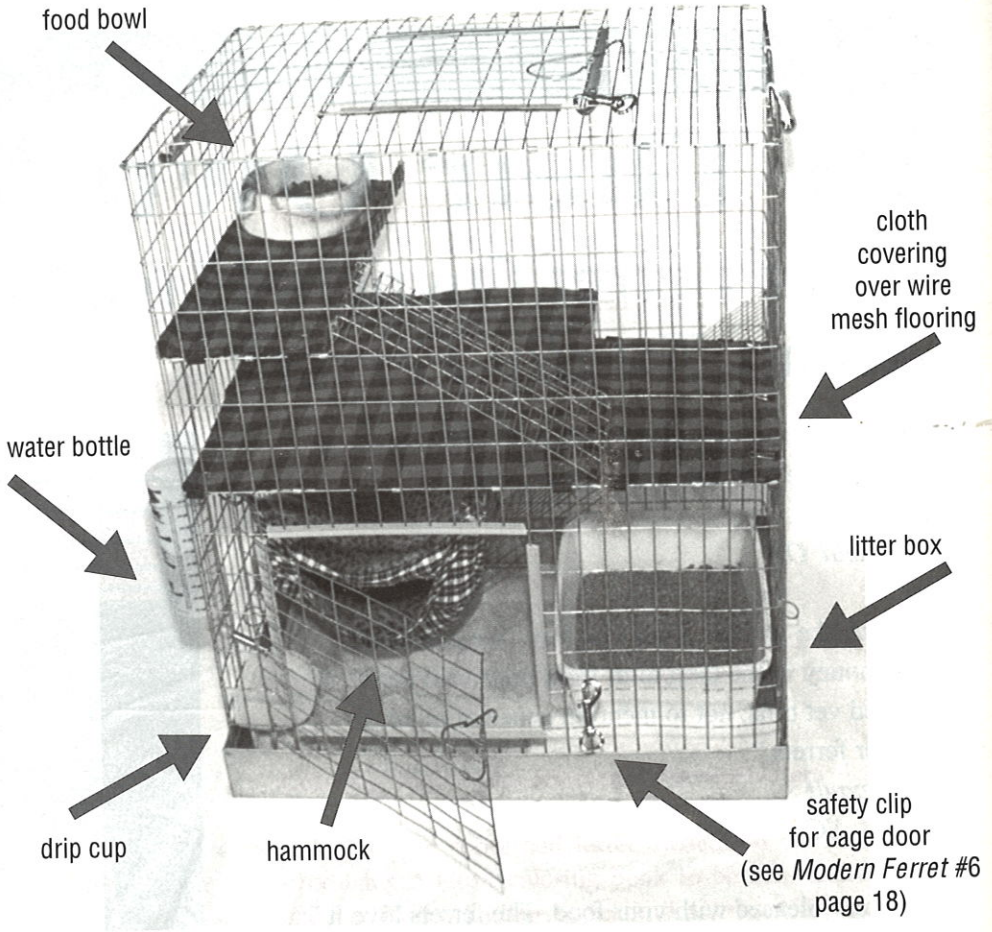
PERFORMANCE FOODS™

For More Information:
Phone: 937/890-7784
FAX: 937/890-7799

Performance Foods, Inc.
Dayton, OH 45415

EQUIPPING A CAGE

by Mary R. Shefferman



A ferret's cage is his castle. It is the place he lives when he's not out playing. Your ferret wants a nice home to live in just as you do. He might forgo the Jacuzzi, but he won't be willing to compromise on other features. Whatever cage you choose for your ferret, make sure it is sturdy and free of sharp edges that might hurt your ferret. Only wire cages will do — **never** use glass enclosures such as aquariums.

Space

A real estate agent might call it "room to grow." The vast majority of ferret owners end up having more than one ferret. When choosing a cage, think about whether you might bring home a playmate for your ferret. If more than one ferret is in your future, look for a cage that is large enough for two, three, or even four ferrets. Make sure there is room enough to provide separate areas for eating, sleeping, litter-boxing, and even a little playing.

Levels

Cages that have several levels offer ferrets an opportunity to exercise a little while they are in the cage. If it's true that people who live in two-story houses tend to be healthier, why not ferrets as well? Levels also make your ferret's home more interesting; they offer a slight change of scenery. They also help to keep sleeping, eating, and litter-boxing areas separated. When looking for a cage with levels, keep in mind that ferrets are not very graceful creatures and they generally don't leap like cats do. The point of having levels is to afford more floor space within the height of the cage. Full-floor levels will give your ferret more living space than "balconies." Ramps should be sturdy and should not create a falling hazard within the cage. Not all cages labeled for ferrets are appropriate for them. A cage chosen wisely can be your ferret's safe haven for his whole life.

We use binder clips to attach cloth cut to the size of the cage. Soft cloth protects the ferret's delicate feet from the wire floor.

Using a clip like this to lock the door closed is an extra security precaution. This way a ferret can't force its way out of the cage or get hurt trying.

Appliances

Ferrets don't need microwave ovens or dishwashers, but they do need the equivalent of our "appliances." The necessities include food dish, water bottle and/or bowl, litter box, something soft for sleeping, and flooring (to cover mesh cage bottom).

Food or water dishes should be weighted so your ferret can't spill the contents. If you give your ferret a dish for water, give him a bottle as well, just in case he tips the bowl while you're not at home. Use any kind of litter box and litter your ferret is comfortable with, but remember that clumping litters are not recommended. Towels, old t-shirts and sweatshirts, and blankets make comfortable sleeping spots.

With these bare essentials, your ferret can live safely in his home. If, however, you'd like to spoil your ferret a little (and who doesn't?), you can add some amenities. You can find hammocks and sleeping tubes at most pet supply stores. If there's a ferret show in your area, you might want to stop in to see what kinds of neat things the vendors are selling. Depending on your ferret(s), you might be able to put a very sturdy toy into the cage. We occasionally put in hard plastic balls (like ping pong balls) that the ferrets cannot bite into or break. Often the best toy you can put in your ferret's cage is a playmate.

Making your ferret's home a happy and comfortable place can be easy and fun. But remember that you won't always be there to supervise your ferret, so anything that goes in the cage must be as safe as possible.

Mesh floors can be covered with:

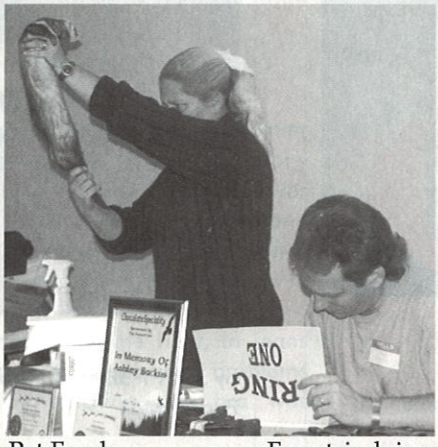
- **Towels (make sure ferret's nails won't snag on loops)**
- **Old blankets (or baby blankets)**
- **Carpeting (clean, untreated, short pile)**
- **Linoleum (attach to cage)**

Ferret Renaissance '96

Ferret shows can be exciting and fun for ferrets and their owners. Here's a look at what it was like at the Great Lakes Ferret Association show in November 1996.

by Richard Nelson and Jennifer Deming

Ferret history in Michigan is short, since our furry friends have been legal only since December 1994. But that hasn't stopped the Great Lakes Ferret Association (GLFA), now 500-plus members strong, from hosting its fourth ferret show on Saturday, November 9, 1996 in Lansing, MI — the largest-yet.



"Ferret Renaissance '96," a six-ring (two sets of three rings) championship show, was held at the Holiday Inn West. Ring sponsors included GLFA, Eight in One Pet Products, Lang's Cat Food, and Purina Pet Foods.

Ferrets and owners started arriving at area motels on Friday, eager for Saturday to arrive. While ferrets lounged in hammocks, their owners worked well into the evening making hotel banquet rooms into the show hall and vendor area.

Club members put the finishing touches on the show hall at 6 AM Saturday. By 7 AM a line of ferrets in cages and carriers, with their owners, began winding its way down the long hotel hallway waiting for four veterinarians to check their health and vaccination papers before admitting them into the show area. All of the ferrets being shown had to be pre-registered.

There were 285 ferrets entered in the competition. Entries represented 12 states including Florida, Oregon, and Montana. Doors to the public opened at 10 AM. Veterinarians were available throughout the day to allow in ferrets that were not being shown. Ferrets and their owners came to see what a ferret show was all about and to shop the unique ferret-related items available from the 30-plus vendors.

Vendors offered everything and more that a ferret could want. Ferrets could shop for cages, shirts for themselves or their owners, new litter pans, and food bowls. Owners were treated to ferret art and wood sculptures to decorate their homes. There was even a booth that offered on-location studio photography of ferrets. Deborah Jeans, author of *A Practical Guide to Ferret Care*, was there all day to autograph her books for people and visit with everyone.

Ferret judging got underway at 10 AM, when emcee Steve Arthur began calling altered hobs (gibs) to the first set of show rings. When the gibs were completed in the middle of the afternoon, the altered jills (or sprites) were called.

Specialty classes were called to the second set of rings while the altered ferrets were being judged. Specialties included: Chocolate, sponsored by the Ferret Inn of Lansing; Blaze, sponsored by Fascinating Ferrets; Angora, sponsored by GLFA; and Handicapped, sponsored by John and Joyce Perez.

After the specialty classes were judged, the emcee started calling the kit class to the second set of rings. The kit class was judged, followed by the hob class, then jills.

Fun matches began at about 11 AM, with one match each hour. Fun events were open to all ferrets; no pre-registration was needed. Matches included: Best Dressed, Tube Race, Sack Escape, Cup Tip, Heaviest and Lightest, and Little Beggars.

Best of class and best opposite trophies were finally awarded at about 9 PM. Congratulations to all the winners. Micki Wingate, President of the GLFA, commented, "It was a lot of hard work, but with all the volunteer help everything went quite smoothly."

The GLFA and sponsors would like to say thank you to all the people and ferrets who came to the show. Hope to see you next June.

Richard Nelson and Jennifer Deming are ferret-owning members of the Great Lakes Ferret Association.

Photos courtesy Deborah Jeans. For information on ordering Deborah's book, A Practical Guide to Ferret Care, *contact: Ferrets Inc., PO Box 450099, Miami, FL 33245-0099. Phone: 305-856-8566.*

The next Great Lakes Ferret Association show will be "Ferret Quest '97" on June 7, 1997. The location will be the Wayne Ford Civic League on Wayne Rd., Westland MI. For more information call 313-287-4572 or e-mail ferretfas@aol.com (Debbie Miller) or 517-328-3903 or e-mail weasils@iserv.net (Tracy Tunnison, Registrar).

For ferret shows near you, check the events calendar on page 46.

Funny Ferret Tricks

Here are this issue's winners in the contest that asks readers to tell us about the wacky things our favorite fuzzies will do! What does *your* ferret do for a treat? If your ferret does funny things like this issue's winners, write it down or take a picture and send it to us. You could win cool stuff from Eight In One Pet Products! See the Contests Page (page 45) for more details.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

The Ferret
by Kathy Cook of Pennsylvania
(with apologies to Edgar Allen Poe)
Ferret: Buster

Once upon a twilit evening, I lay resting, nearly sleeping,
Recovering from the workday toil of the hours before.
Into slumber I was falling — suddenly there came a clawing
As of something fiercely pawing, pawing at its cage's door.
"'Tis the ferret," I mumbled, "clawing at his cage's door."
"Only this and nothing more."

Fighting waking, turning, groaning, "Please be quiet," I was moaning.
This exasperating creature I decided to ignore.
When next there came the sound of shredding, a rending, tearing of his bedding.
Then the sound that I was dreading, teeth upon his wire door.
"All right, beast, you win," I grumbled, opening his cage's door.
And out he leapt upon the floor.

Then there came a soft paw reaching, dark eyes quietly beseeching
As if he were gently pleading, then off to another room he tore.
Resignedly I followed after ('twas plain which of us was master),
As he scurried ever faster, scrambling 'cross the kitchen floor,
Contriving to avoid disaster, sliding 'cross the kitchen floor,
Stopping at the pantry door.

Frantically he started scratching (while my breath I still was catching).
Hurriedly I began unlatching the clasp upon the cupboard door.
Could this creature be so brazen, so boldly to demand a raisin?
Raptly was the ferret gazing — at, deep within, the hidden store.
And so to satisfy his craving, I dropped a tidbit to the floor.
Only one and nothing more.

This he rapidly devoured, then turned to me and almost glowered.
And feeling, clearly, quite empowered, he bit my toes 'til they were sore,
Thus rend'ring an opinion weaselly, of being fed a treat so measly.
Then he disappeared quite breezily (beneath the sofa, I was sure).
I searched uneasily, then I cried, "Won't you forgive me, I implore."
But just a "dook" quoth he — and nothing more.

P.S. Buster never, ever bites. I used "poe"tic license.

by Joan Walker of New Hampshire
Ferret: Max

Hi fellow ferrets. My name is Maximillian, Max for short. I have a great new trick for you, which is lots of fun. First you have to convince your human pets to let you in the linen closet. Often you can get in there yourself as they don't close the door tightly and we all know that we can open doors. For you really young guys who aren't sure how to do this, just lay on your side and stick your paws in between the door and the frame and pull. If the door isn't open, I just roll over in front of the door and my human pet will open it for me (learning to roll over is another trick I'll tell you about later). In my linen closet there are always things on the floor so it is easy to get up on the first shelf. The trick is to climb all the way up to the top shelf. Oh I forgot to say this trick only works if they have the white plastic-covered wire shelving. When you are on the shelf check around for something to climb up on (towels etc.). Then reach up and grab part of the wire shelf with your teeth. Hold on tight and grab the shelf with your paws, then roll over on your back. In this position you pull yourself along the shelf with our front paws until you get to the edge and reach around the edge and grab the top of the shelf. While pushing with your hind feet (get them going really fast) you can pull yourself up onto the shelf with your front paws. You can repeat this process for every shelf until you get to the top. These shelves always have such interesting things to explore, get into, and chew. Also, if you can get your human pet to watch you it is guaranteed to get a laugh. Good luck!

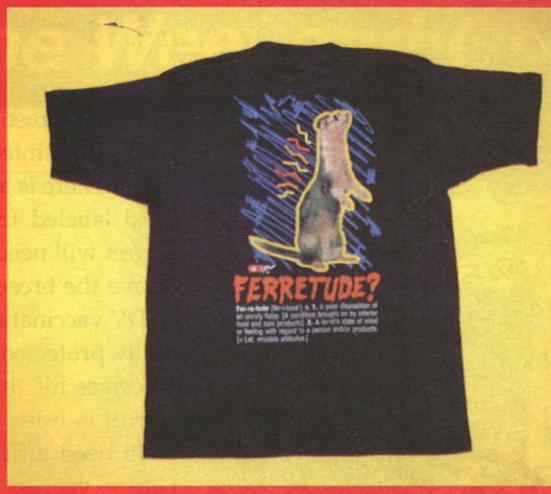
by Sukie Crandall of New Jersey
Ferret: Hjalmar

About ten years ago, when our sweet, late Hjalmar was still a kit, we purchased our milk from a dairy down the road. Our elder ferret, Haleakala, was already a favorite there for her cherished cuddles and kisses, and Fritter's royal presence amazed all. Since warm weather had arrived, we decided it was time to introduce our little guy.

I was dressed appropriately for the heat, in jeans and a midriff top. Because of upper-back problems which are aggravated by pinching, my bra was strapless.

Interest in Hjalmar developed as soon as we appeared, and he happily rewarded all comers with nose bumps and scratchy kisses. After a while Steve wandered into the store to buy our supplies, while Hjalmar and I remained outside with an extremely elegant, older gentleman. Without warning a cow lowed, and Hjalmar dove for the safest place he knew, the inside of my shirt. To this day, I don't know who blushed more, me or the gent, when there suddenly appeared, slung from my waist, my strapless bra with a startled kit sitting in one cup. Steve still refers to it as a moo-ving experience.

WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!



WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!

WIN THIS T-SHIRT!

ENTER THE FUNNY FERRET TRICKS CONTEST TODAY!
SEE PAGE 45 FOR DETAILS!

by Shannon Prelte of Illinois
Ferret: Ebony

Ebony is determined to steal Sabra's (the cat) toy. She jumps up, grabs the toy with her mouth, and then holds onto it with her front feet. She then proceeds to run off with the stolen cat toy in her mouth. Needless to say, she does not succeed because the elastic string snaps and she loses the toy.

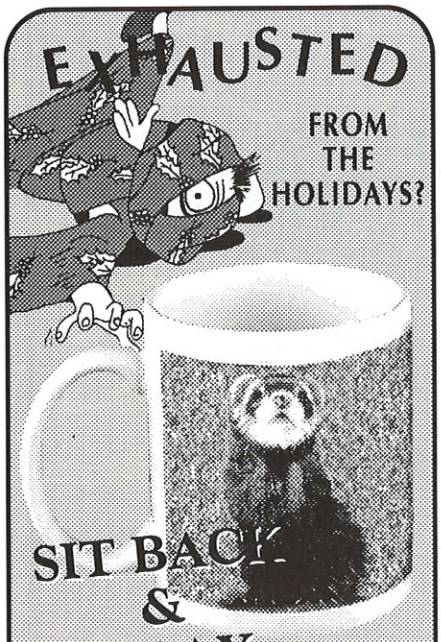
Does Ebony give up? Of course not! She is persistent and will try until she succeeds. She will do whatever it takes. After all, she is a ferret.

by Aubrey Panek of Illinois
Ferrets: Max and Shadow

Ripley's believe it or not. We have two ferrets — one is a two-year-old albino called "Max" because of how fast he runs, like Mel Gibson's "Mad Max." The other is a one-year-old sable called "Shadow" because he follows Max everywhere he goes.

About six months ago, they got into my wife's underwear drawer. My wife is a buxom 46 E — and after an extensive search for them, we found them all rolled up and sound asleep in each cup of her bra. What a sight!

SPONSORED BY:
8 in 1



with your Ferret and a ***Personalized Mug*** filled with your favorite hot beverage!

AVAILABLE AT:

Discount Master

Animal Care Catalog

*Ferrets deserve the **VERY BEST** and we have it - Along with great **LOW PRICE$**.*

8 in 1 Plus®

In Demand By Ferrets Everywhere!

- ✔ Fruit & Crunch Treats
- ✔ Banana-Raisin Flavored Treats
- ✔ Plus Much More!

Congratulations to Julie Serra. Last issues' winner of Reader Art.

Yes! Please send me a free Discount Master Animal Care Catalog.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Key: MF900

Send to:
Discount Master Animal Care
Humboldt Industrial Park
1 Maplewood Drive
Hazleton, PA 18201-9798

Modern Ferret Would Like To Remind You To **VACCINATE YOUR FERRET!**

Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) is fatal to ferrets. There is currently no treatment. Because it is airborne, your dog (or you) can carry the virus into your home and infect your ferret. Most important, however, is that CDV is preventable. There is a USDA-approved vaccine against CDV that is proven effective in and labeled for ferrets (Fervac-D, United Vaccines Inc., Madison, WI). Your ferret will need yearly booster inoculations from your veterinarian. Before they leave the breeder, most baby ferrets have had one in a required series of three CDV vaccinations. This means they need two more vaccinations before they are fully protected by the vaccine. Avoid taking your ferret outdoors until after he receives his third inoculation. Keep your dog away from your ferret until the ferret is fully vaccinated. After the initial three-inoculation series, your ferret will need a CDV vaccination each year. Don't take chances with your ferret's life — vaccinate him. Remember to remain at the veterinarian's office for a half hour after any vaccination just in case your ferret has an allergic reaction.

Are you a **famous person** who **owns ferrets?**

Do you know a famous person who owns ferrets?

We want to do some stories on famous people who own ferrets to help raise the public awareness of ferrets as popular pets — so please contact us!

Do you **have ferrets** and live **outside of the US?**

We're looking for people to contribute to our "Wide World of Ferrets" column and let people know about ferret conditions in foreign lands. Whether ferrets are popular where you are or uncommon, we'd love to hear about it!

Have you **taught your ferret** a really **neat trick?**

Send in pictures of the trick along with a write-up of how you & your ferret worked it out for our "Tricks for Treats" feature!

Are you a **veterinarian** with **ferret care information** to share?

Help ferret owners everywhere by sharing your knowledge with our growing readership.

Are you a ferret owner with **interesting anecdotes?**

Whether it's a story about you and your ferret's lifestyle, a story of how you helped you ferret cope with an illness, or anything else about ferrets — if you're interested in writing about it, let us know.

Although we can't currently pay for contributions, your contribution will enrich the lives of all our ferret-loving readers — and we'll send you some extra copies of the magazine to show your friends and relatives.
If that's okay for you, then please send your stories or proposals.
Note that there are only two of us and we don't have time to contact everyone personally — if we decide to run your story, we will contact you. Please include your phone number and address with any correspondence. Send stuff to:
Modern Ferret • PO Box 338 • Massapequa Park NY 11762 • USA

Finally, The Exotic Pets & Products You Want Most - One Weekend Only

Meet Mary and Eric from modern FERRET™ and their ferrets!

IN UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

Prince George's Equestrian Center
Showplace Arena
March 22 & 23, 1997 - 9AM to 5PM

A wide variety of exotic pets to buy. Some you can't even find in pet shops! All in one place too! It's like going to an entire mall devoted just to pets and pet products. Exactly how cool is this? There are 50,000 square feet of pets, pets and more pets at the Exotics & Family Pet Showcase.

There are products galore. From big cages to leashes, pet papooses, pet toys, gifts, tee shirts, and magazines, books, figurines, and pet beds. (Can't list 'em all here - sorry.)

That's not all. You'll love the free lecture program which runs all day both days.

Bring the kids, too, 'cause there will be exhibits of tigers, eagles, and alligators for them to see.

Refreshments are available at the concessions. You can make a day of it. Shop 'til you drop, and get an eyeful of the most unusual animals you've seen since your last visit to the zoo. You and the kids are both "gonna" love it!

Ferrets • Exotic Birds
Snakes • Iguanas
Frogs • Other Reptiles
Greyhound Adoptions
And More (No Room To List All)

$1.00 OFF
ONE ADULT ADMISSION
modern FERRET. **Duplicate This Ad** modern FERRET.

EXOTICS & FAMILY PET SHOWCASE
March 22 & 23, 1997
9AM to 5PM
Upper Marlboro Maryland
Prince George's Equestrian Center
Showplace Arena
Admission: $7 Adults $2 Kids 6-10 Little Kids Free
for friendly information (spectators & new exhibitors)

EXPO USA
372 Meadow Wood Lane • Souderton PA 18964
Phone: (215) 721-7199 • 24 hour FAX (215) 721-7979

Microchipping

In Ferret Shelters

by Alicia Drakiotes

Why do ferret shelters do it? Well, I don't know about other shelters, but here at Ferret Wise Shelter, this is how we came to implement a microchip program for our resident ferrets.

It was 1995 and in 11-1/2 months 99 ferrets passed through our doors. That number did not include the few rescues who were still in residence from the year before. What happens when you have many ferrets in the shelter all requiring vaccinations and care? Some days it is a dilemma. Keeping them — and their paperwork — all straight and maintaining attention to details are chores in themselves. With as many as 47 ferrets in the shelter on any given day, we had to be extremely cautious not to mix up any look-alikes. It is not as easy as it might sound when coat changes occur often — and sometimes overnight! Since we began our microchip program, if we get a ferret mixed up (never, never), a quick scan helps us find the ferret's appropriate cage without a hassle.

We began to look for a way to keep better track of the ferrets in our shelter by asking other shelters about the types of identification processes that worked for them. We found a shelter in Pennsylvania that had instituted a microchip program for its ferrets. This program had helped return a stray ferret to its home. This sounded good. An in-depth search was begun to find the microchip that would work best for Ferret Wise Shelter.

A microchip is a very small particle (much like a grain of rice) which is encoded and which can be implanted under an animal's skin to provide permanent identification. This microchip is inserted through a needle in the same manner a vaccination is given. The injection site heals within two days, and the animal is carefree, happy, and healthy. The animal also has an identification card which provides several assurances: return to home if the animal strays and is found by local humane or animal control officers; and, by registering with the treating veterinarian, a means of

Shelter mascot "Ewok" poses (with Ferretone) as shelter Dad demonstrates the approximate placement of the microchip on the ferrets — between the shoulders.

The scanner passed over "Ewok" displays his very own identification card, which is registered in a national database in case he becomes missing, ensuring him of a safe return.

SUBSCRIBE TO MODERN FERRET AND KEEP UP ON ALL THE LATEST IDEAS IN FERRET CARE. SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 42.

The Ferret Calendar™

Year after year, our calendars are the ones ferret fans want. They're beautifully photographed, handsomely designed and full of interesting ferret facts and fictions.
Limited quantities of our classic 1995 and 1996 calendars are still available. You can also order all three as a special collector's set.
Don't miss out on the best photographs of your favorite pet, get them before they're gone!
Items not available by mail elsewhere in California.

Visit us on the web at
http: // www.ferretcalendar.com

Greeting cards, T-shirts, stationery and more!

New products are now in the works at The Ferret Calendar. Besides our gorgeous color ferret greeting cards, coming soon are irresistible ferret T-shirts and adorable ferret stationery. Call now for a free catalogue and for product availability.

Your support helps our efforts in legalization, education, and rescue in California.

P.O. Box 7161, Dept. M, Redwood City CA 94063-7161 Tel/Fax (415) 851-5775

ensuring that an accurate record of vaccinations and health conditions are identified with the animal.

After checking with the three current microchip manufacturers, and finding out which microchips were being used by local veterinarians, the shelter directors decided to begin the program with AVID's microchip. We chose AVID because several local veterinarians were using this brand, AVID provided readers free of charge to the shelter, and chances were the local humane society would be scanning stray animals for these microchips since several local veterinarians were inserting them.

if an animal re-enters the shelter as a stray we will then have a way of reuniting the ferret with its owner

Of course, there were several issues to resolve regarding adding a program to an already burdened shelter process: budget restrictions (nothing is free), added time (labor), and an added veterinary call. There was also some speculation regarding the implanting process itself; we had heard some reports of microchips migrating after implantation. All these issues and more were weighed. The vote in the end was to initiate the program. It was projected that the program would add an additional $12 per ferret in processing fees, including the cost of the microchip and the veterinarian's fee to implant it. The initial order was placed and microchipping began in February of 1996.

In the summer of 1996, accompanied by great joy, finally came a New Hampshire state law providing a quarantine period for ferrets that are vaccinated against rabies if they are involved in a nip or scratch incident. But public officials who still pursued a kill-and-test policy regardless of the new law were not swayed. Perhaps the microchip could make a difference here too. If we could get ferret owners to microchip their pets, their veterinarians would have a record of vaccinations for each ferret. There could be no disputing whether the animal in question had in fact been vaccinated, and, therefore, it would be less likely that the quarantine for a healthy animal would be disputed. Or so we hoped. Another reason, even if a minor one, to proceed with microchipping the ferrets.

Microchipping may not be viable for the small shelter. Microchips are purchased in lots of 25. They are available in two forms: Bulk, which you place into a separately purchased needle for injection, which requires sterilization and extra time. Or single unit dispensing syringes (SUDS), which are ready to use and disposable after use. Although the shelter can purchase the microchips, they will be delivered to your veterinarian. It would be beneficial to see what type of fee you can negotiate for this service.

Microchips were implanted in 47 healthy (adoptable) ferrets in 1996. Of those, none has been reported lost or stray so no recovery has been noted. All ferrets were scanned prior to adoption and some at up to five months after implantation — we have seen no migration of the microchip thus far.

The fees for adoption have increased to offset the price of the microchip and implantation. While it might be stated that the adoption rates have slowed, those who have adopted are very pleased that their ferrets have their own individual identification. It is a small hope in case the industrious ferret makes a break on a nice spring or summer day. It is also a nice benefit for the shelter, for if an animal re-enters the shelter as a stray we will then have a way of reuniting the ferret with its owner, something we could not have been sure of in the past.

The best news for shelters contemplating the microchip is that starting this year all microchip readers will be universal. This means that no matter which company provides the microchips, they will be detected by any reader.

Microchipping may not be the be-all–end-all of ferret identification. But in places where there are restrictions on the ownership of ferrets or when ferrets are carried from state to state, microchipping is a sensible way to protect our pets from the dangers that can arise from misconceptions. We encourage shelters to investigate microchipping programs, and ferret owners to consider this alternative as well. It may well save your beloved pet's life.

Those wishing further information on microchip programs may contact shelter manager Alicia Drakiotes at Ferret Wise Shelter, PO Box 561, Marlborough, NH 03455, or phone 603-876-4975, Monday through Friday 9 AM – 5 PM Eastern. Alicia Drakiotes operates the Ferret Wise Rescue & Rehabilitation Shelter in Marlborough, NH and is a veterinary technician.

AccuPath
VETERINARY HISTOPATHOLOGY
EXPERIENCED IN DOMESTIC AND EXOTIC ANIMAL PATHOLOGY
BRUCE H. WILLIAMS, DVM
DIPLOMATE
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS
7605-F AIRPARK ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20879
(301) 299-8041

ADVERTISE IN MODERN FERRET AND REACH FERRET OWNERS!
CONTACT US AT 516 - 799 - 1364 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The AVID company has several new programs available to shelters. The first program provides that your original purchase (in sets of 25) will be matched free of cost on your first order. Readers are provided free to shelters, whether or not they decide to microchip, so that they can scan the animals and reunite strays with their owners. A written agreement is required between the shelter and the company to assure that each animal that enters the shelter will be scanned to check for a microchip, and that any microchipped animal that is recovered will be reported to the company.

Other programs (though not all offered) AVID offers include:

- Up to 500 microchips per year to an established microchipping shelter for special events (microchip clinics/fairs) which are available at a price which also includes registration in the company's Pet Track database.

- Spay/Neuter donation. For each registration received from a participating shelter, AVID will set aside $1.00 for programs involving pet overpopulation/spay or neutering of pets. Funds will be donated to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), American Humane Association (AHA), and National Animal Control Association programs.

Companies offering shelter programs for microchipping

AVID
179 Hamner Ave.
Norco CA 91760
1-800-336-AVID

InfoPET
InfoPet ID Systems, Inc.
415 W. Travelers Trail
Burnsville MN 55337
1-800-INFO-PET

Schering-Plough/HomeAgain
Schering/Plough Animal Health
1095 Morris Ave., PO Box 3182
Union NJ 07083-1982
1-800-341-5785

A Microchipping Experience

by Susan Morrow

We brought 21 ferrets from England to the United States in fall of 1995. Before shipping the selected ferrets, we decided to implant them with microchips for specific identification. The microchips were inserted just behind the right front leg of each ferret by a breeder/doctor who was trained in the procedure.

At first, the needles for the HomeAgain system from Schering-Plough seemed huge. We were microchipping 6- to 12-week-old kits, some of which were quite small. But once the first ferret was microchipped, it became clear just how easy the procedure was. Although large, the points of the needles are angled, which works to lift up the skin as the microchip is inserted. All 21 ferrets were done in 30 minutes, with only one of the "itty bitties," as I called them, showing just a trace of blood.

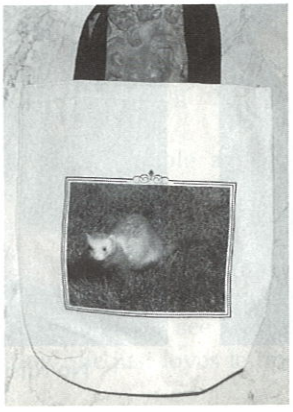
Four weeks after microchipping, several of the ferrets developed a small mass around the microchip — all within 24 hours of one another. It was determined that the masses were a reaction to the microchip, and all the ferrets were given amoxicillin. The masses became smaller within a few days and disappeared within a few weeks. My ferret, Chessie, still has his microchip in its proper place; it hasn't "migrated." Microchipping the ferrets we brought here made us feel more comfortable with the transfer and was worth the small expense.

Susan Morrow is Treasurer of Big Apple Ferrets Inc. (a not-for-profit organization) in New York City. Big Apple Ferrets Inc., PO Box 4022, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Attention Subscribers: Moving?

Please WRITE us and let us know!

Modern Ferret
attn: Address Changes
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762



The Critter Shoppe, Inc.

Natural duck tote bag with a color photo of our favorite ferret imprinted on one side. This versatile bag will hold your ferret supplies and still leave a little room for your own things. The bag measures 13" x 13" with a 3" bottom gusset. The price is $11.95 + $3.50 for shipping and handling. New York State residents add applicable sales tax.

The Critter Shoppe, Inc.
P.O. Box 530
Wantagh, NY 11793

Get on our mailing list! New products coming soon!

FERRET PHOTOGRAPHY

Since I'm taking this issue off so we can run an exceptional Pink Noses™ photo, I thought I'd show you some of the other photos from the issue #8 photo session. Shooting original photography for each issue takes a lot of work. Here's some of the alternatives for #8 you didn't get to see — along with their captions. Enjoy!

— Eric

Is that a spot on your shirt?

I left my invitation in my other coat.

It's a nice reflection on you.

Ha! I refuse to have a battle of wits with an unarmed man!

You're serving snails?

No raisins? Where's my agent? I'm outta here!

TRICKS FOR TREATS

Scooter ... Dead Ferret!

by Scooter B. Ferret
(with help from Shirley Hertzog)

Shirley and Scooter

Dead Ferret!

My mommy said that she wanted me to share my favorite trick with all the two-legs out there, and the best way to do this is through this really great magazine called *Modern Ferret*. I have no idea what a magazine is ... but... here goes!

When I lay on my back, I like to flop my head all the way back so I can see what's happening above me. When I'd do this, my mommy would say that I was playing "Dead Ferret" and she'd get all giggly and give me ear rubs. I reeaaallllyyyy love ear rubs. So I would throw my head all the way back and let it hang down whenever she would say "Scooter ... Dead Ferret." Everywhere we go people want to see my trick, and as soon as mommy lays me on my back, I know what's coming. Now she has to get my attention first and have me give her kisses. Otherwise I throw my head back before she even has a chance to say anything. She's not always as quick as I am.

I also do "roll over," though I really have to be coaxed and I love giving kisses, just put my mouth at your chin and my tongue takes over. Mommy is teaching me a new trick, and that is "say your prayers." It is a little like "Dead Ferret" but with my paws together. I know that when you pray you should look up so I lay my head back until it is in line with my back and not hanging down like Dead Ferret.

A lot of people ask my mommy how long it took her to train me, and she always answers that it didn't take me long to teach her. So next time you see my mommy at the WarmFuzzzy stand, just ask to see my famous trick. I know she just loves letting me show off.

Because You Want THE BEST

Premium Extruded Ferret Food

Free of chemical preservatives

Chicken is main ingredient

High fat content from poultry

Fortified with vitamins and minerals

Low ash content

L'Avian PLUS

Premium Nutrition For Small Animals

For More Information
Call or Write:
L'Avian Pet Products
P.O. Box 359
Stephen, MN 56757
1-800-543-3308

Shirley Clarifies:

I don't want to steal the thunder from Scooter, because it is his trick. I didn't teach it to him, he taught it to me. Every time I'd hold him on his back, he'd flop (almost whip) his head back. I'd say, "Oh, no! He's a dead ferret!" I think he was trying to tell me: "I like this position." He does like laying with his head flopped back like that. After a while, every time I'd say, "he'd a dead ferret" or "you're not a dead ferret," he would flop his head back. I would make a big deal out of it, telling him that he's a good boy. I would give him ear rubs every time he would do it. He likes pleasing me. That's the way he trained me. I don't rub his ears that much any more when he does the trick because I don't want him to do it for the ear rubs, I want him to do it when I say "dead ferret."

But now he's almost outguessing me. He likes doing it so much that I have to watch when he's ready to do it so he doesn't do the Dead Ferret before I tell him to. Every once in a while he wants to do it faster than I want to do it. Part of the trick is he's supposed to do it when I say, but he gets impatient waiting for me. He does do it almost every time that I say "dead ferret." Most of the time he does it when I want him to (as opposed to when he wants to do it).

I found it works well if I get his attention. I have him give me kisses or something to get his concentration on me, then he's looking me in the eye and I can get the cue from him as to when I'm supposed to say "dead ferret."

Scooter likes doing the trick. When we were in St. Paul, he must have done it at least 50 times. Everybody would bring their friends over to the table and say: "Show them the dead ferret." Scooter is the only trickster I have. No matter where I go, as soon as he does this trick everybody's face lights up, and he loves that. He thinks that's grand. He says, "I think I'll do that again."

Shirley and Clarence Hertzog operate the WarmFuzzy Ferret Rescue in Fleetwood, PA. They sell the famous WarmFuzzy Ferret Harness and related items. Contact them at: 610-926-9087, or look for them at ferret shows. And don't forget to ask about Scooter.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED: IF YOU HAVE A FERRET WHO DOES A NEAT TRICK, WRITE TO US AT:

MODERN FERRET
ATTN: TRICKS FOR TREATS
PO BOX 338
MASSAPEQUA PARK NY
11762
USA

ANIMAL CONNECTION

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FERRETS

WE SPECIALIZE IN FERRETS
FERRET SUPPLIES
FERRET KNOWLEDGE
WE HAVE BABY FERRETS FOR ADOPTION
WE WILL SHIP

Summerlin Square Shopping Center
17105 San Carlos Blvd., E-1
Ft. Myers, FL 33931

Marylou
941-466-8900

The Time-Out

In addition to the behavior-modification methods discussed in the "Bringing Up Baby: Nip Training" article, another useful, all-purpose, gentle behavior modifier is the "time-out." When a ferret is misbehaving, return the ferret to his cage for a few minutes. Although you have temporarily taken away his freedom, he is in his "safe place" and has all his required amenities (see the "Equipping a Cage" article on page 12). You are not hurting him, just giving him an opportunity to associate lack of freedom with the undesired behavior. Ferrets tend to crave freedom and exploring. When returned to their cage, some ferrets will paw at the cage door and some will resign and go to sleep. The important thing is that the ferret make the connection between an action and the unpleasant consequences. Thus, you could use the time-out when:

1. The ferret tries to play with you, someone else, or another ferret too roughly (for example: nipping)
2. The ferret tries to poop in a corner without a litter box
3. The ferret cannot be distracted from doing an undesirable action — such as digging at the carpet

The time-out communicates on the ferret's level — the desire for freedom — without requiring physical force on your part, and should be a part of your behavior-modifying repertoire.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

FRIENDLY FERRETS

BREEDER OF FINE FERRETS & PET MINK

Unusual Colors
Polka Dots our Specialty
Altered before sale

Accepting Deposits on 1997 Kits
(German & Scottish bloodlines too)

DEBBIE SCOTT
(937) 392-9302
Ripley OH
shipping arranged
video available

Looking for Ferret Cross Stitch Patterns?

I have several popular designs to choose from, all with the discriminating ferret owner in mind. Not sold in stores anywhere. For brochure, send Long SASE to:

Morgan Designs
3145 Craft Way, #5, Dept M
Westminster, CO
80030-5402

For a neat catalog of novelties for ferrets & their humans call:

FerretWare
at
800-FERRETWARE

and say:
"Modern Ferret Magazine told me to ask for a free catalog!"

It's that simple!

Don't forget to leave your name & address!

Do you love your ferret? How about the smell?

Have you ever found one simple, safe, longlasting way to keep your home odor-free? You may have tried air fresheners, vinegar, air filters, etc. Did they work? If you are looking for a better method then try an AIR PURIFIER.
Several models available to effectively control:

Pet Odors	Animal Dander
Dust	Airborne Diseases
Pollen	Mold/Mildew

These machines are not filters!
One machine will improve the whole house. Only 5¢/day to run, no filters to replace, built to last.

Call (800) 530-9631
or (714) 645-8862

End Unfriendly ODOR with DE-ODOR ROD™

Unlike some other odor control methods that just mask smells with artificial fragrances which are chemicals. The DE-ODOR ROD attracts, absorbs and locks-in odors and contaminated gaseous fumes at the source (litter box and cages) before they spread throughout our homes.

Perforated with its slot ventured intake design DE-ODOR ROD safely contains a non-toxic, non chemical natural volcanic mineral without a fragrance.

Recharge DE-ODOR ROD monthly by simply placing in direct sunshine for one day. The DE-ODOR ROD lasts up to a year or longer.

Available in six sizes call today for rod size information 1-800-322-1988

Love
thy
weasel

Dr. Ned Horowitz
Massapequa Pet Vet
Animal Medicine & Surgery

Ferrets Welcome!

(516) 797-VETS (8387)

5404 Merrick Road
Massapequa, NY 11758

Have your business listed where ferret lovers will find it!

Modern Ferret's
special advertising section

Display boxes are
1 5/8" wide and 2" tall.

We will set type for you at no charge. Each ad costs only $35, payment due with your ad copy.
For more information, call today:
(516) 799-1364
Advertising space is extremely limited, and *Modern Ferret* reserves the right to refuse any advertising it deems improper or unfit.

Check out
our new
book!

See the ad on page 6!

FERRET PAWS RESCUE

Ferret Care and Training Info
Ferret Grooming and Boarding
Unique Ferret Gifts
Ferret Rescue

340 Logan Dr
Hatfield PA 19440
(215) 855-5167

Call or Write for Catalog

The Critter Shoppe

New and exciting ferret decorated products coming your way — send large SASE for a preview of "what's to come."

allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

The Critter Shoppe
PO Box 530
Wantagh NY 11793

These boxes
are only **$35**
each.

See box above for more info!

Modern Ferret is available in more pet stores and book stores every day. You can help us out and your fellow ferret owners by encouraging your favorite store to carry more copies of *Modern Ferret*. That way more people will be able to find it. Thank you!

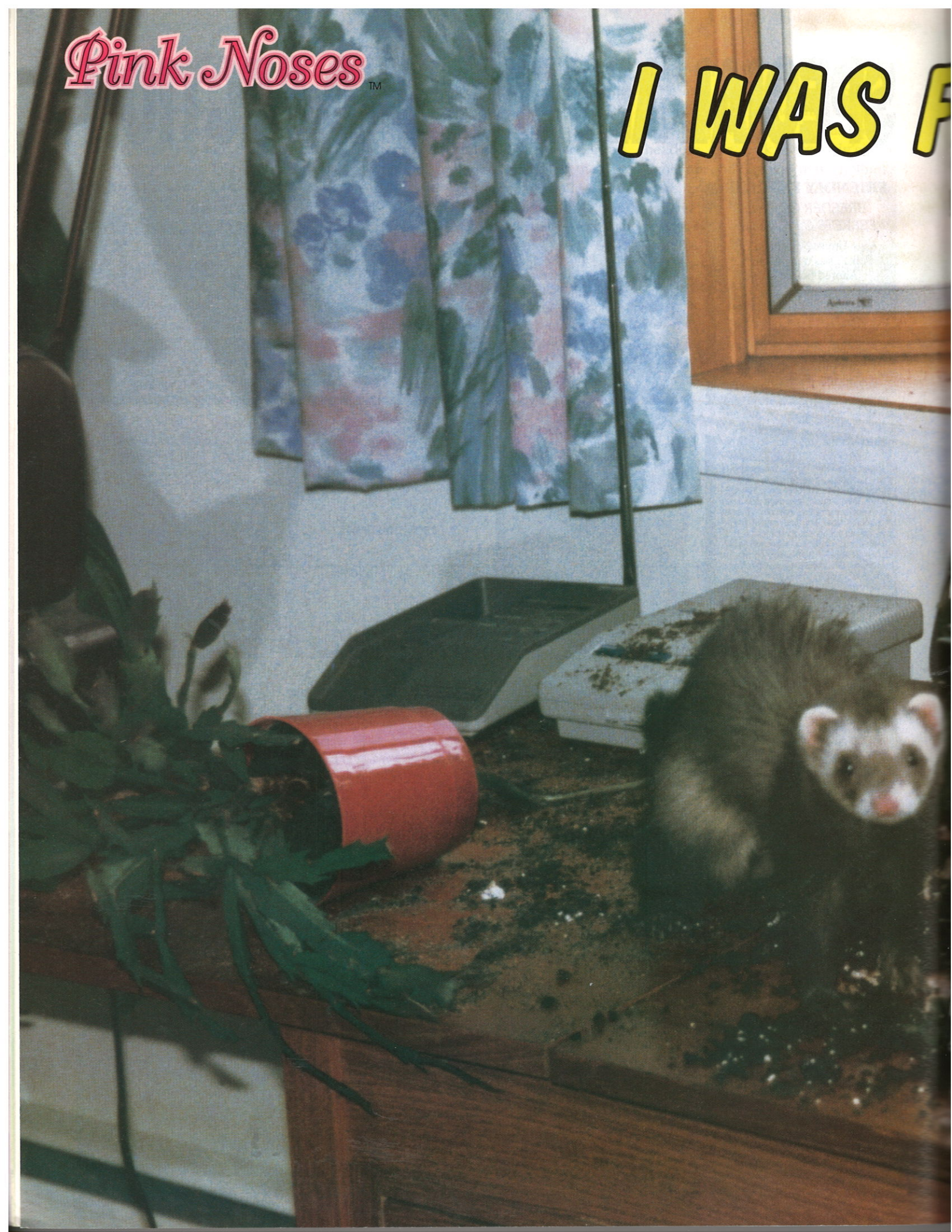
The Ferret Trading Post™ is coming soon!

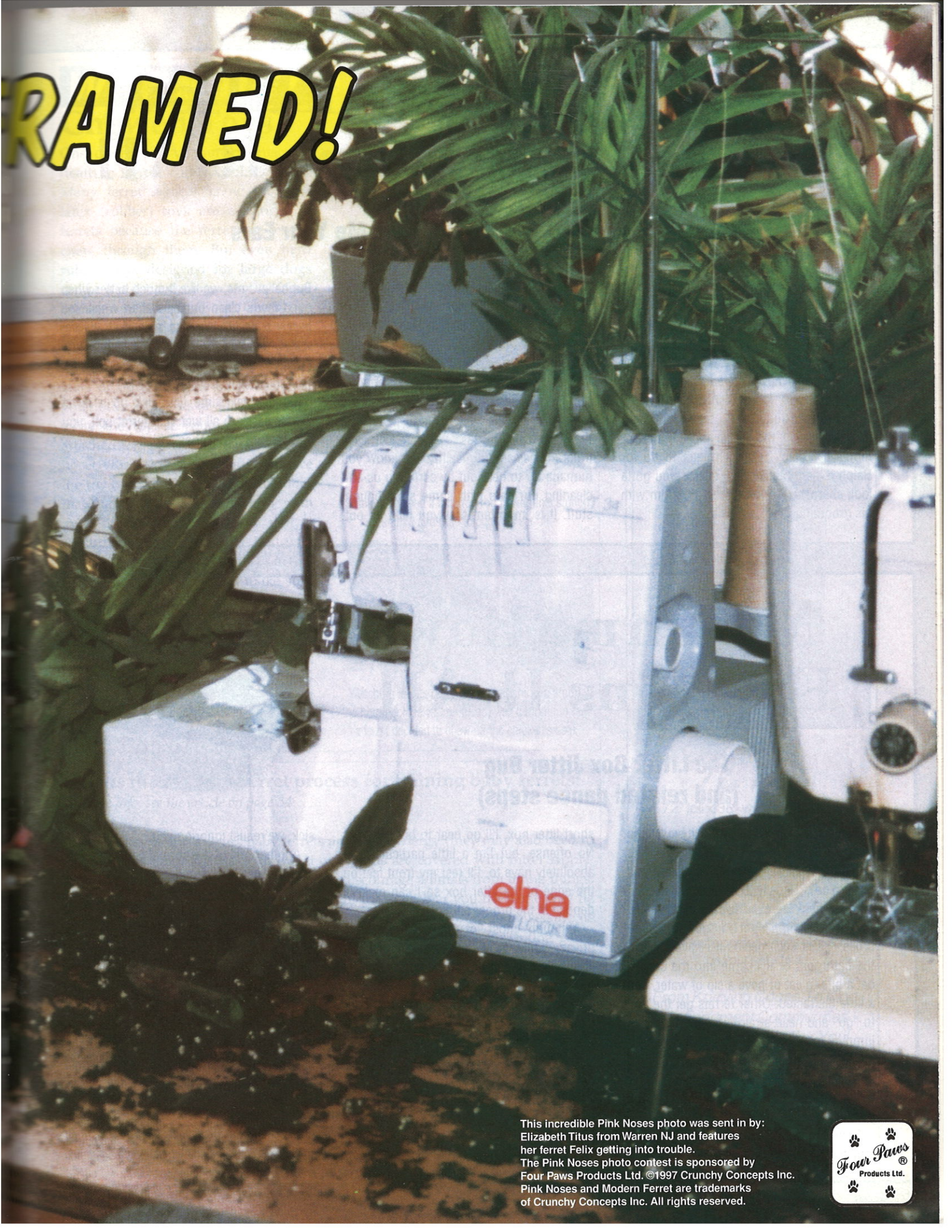
Use
the
litter box!

Subscribe to *Modern Ferret*

Part of your money goes towards feeding Ralph a steady supply of his favorite treats!

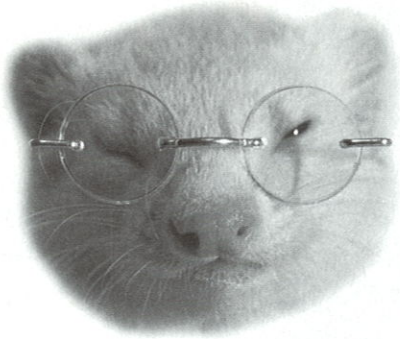
Special savings deal!
Now only $19.95
for six issues!
SEE PAGE 42 FOR DETAILS!


Pink Noses™
I WAS F



This incredible Pink Noses photo was sent in by:
Elizabeth Titus from Warren NJ and features
her ferret Felix getting into trouble.
The Pink Noses photo contest is sponsored by
Four Paws Products Ltd. ©1997 Crunchy Concepts Inc.
Pink Noses and Modern Ferret are trademarks
of Crunchy Concepts Inc. All rights reserved.

Four Paws®
Products Ltd.



Marshmallow Explains It All

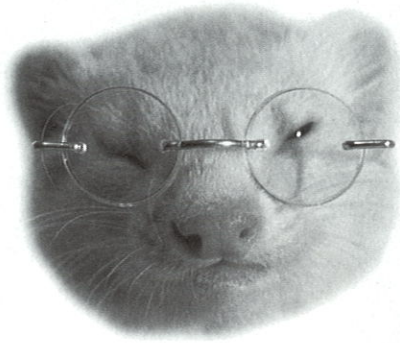
Lend Me Your Ears

When I was a kit I used to get in trouble for sucking on Ralph's ears. At the time, the humans didn't understand what I was doing and figured I must be trying to annoy Ralph. Well, I wasn't. If I wanted to annoy Ralph I would have nipped at his neck or stolen his toys. I like Ralph; he's like my big brother. Though I do tease him from time to time, I like to do nice things for him. One of my favorite things to do for Ralph is help him to look sharp (you gotta look sharp!). I do this by helping him with his grooming.

See, when ferrets like each other — like I like Ralph — they groom each other. Part of that grooming is cleaning ears. (We also do that little nibbling thing on each other's fur, but that's another story.) Sometimes it looks like one of us is yanking on another one's ear or just sucking on the ear like a baby might do. But there is a purpose to all that licking and sucking; we're helping each other stay clean and healthy. We know you humans try to help out by scruffing us and cleaning our ears with some store-bought stuff. It is important that you help us out. But believe me, we like it much better when our friends clean our ears than when you humans do it. We use nice soft, warm, moist tongues to clean ears, while you humans use cotton swabs. (You call yourselves "civilized"!)

So the next time you pick up a ferret whose ears are all wet with ferret spit, you can be sure that he has a friend.

Marshmallow Explains It All



The Litter Box Jitter Bug (and related dance steps)

We ferrets can be a bit fussy about things from time to time. Take the litter box. I like my litter boxes fairly clean (most ferrets do). Usually I have to check and double check — even triple check — that I've got the right spot to "go" in. Sometimes I can't even decide if I have to go to the bathroom or if I came into the cage to get a bite to eat or have a sip of water. I get a little distracted. Other ferrets get the urge to "go" and head straight for the litter box, jump in, and do their thing. No hemming or hawing. Either of these behaviors is pretty normal. It's only if you see your ferret trying to "go" and nothing comes out that you have to take him to the vet.

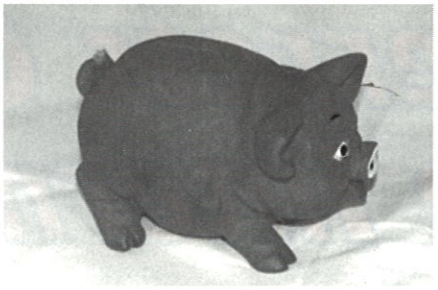
Now, I'm a long fellow. I like to have all four feet in the litter box. If you give me a short litter box, I'll go near it, but not in it. No offense, but I'm a little particular. If I absolutely have to, I'll rest my front feet on the edge of the litter box so I can make a deposit in the proper spot.

Although most of us prefer a little privacy while we're doing our thing in the litter box, sometimes our humans watch us to make sure we're OK (of course, whenever I try to do that to them, I get shooed away). This is when they notice that we go into a sort of trance while we're actually "going." Those humans that are unfamiliar with the Litter Box Trance become concerned that we're sick or something. We're not. We just have to think hard to get it right. No, not really. That's a joke. The point is that we're not sick, we're just ignoring you.

Another one of the normal behaviors that humans get concerned about is — how shall I put this? — "cleanliness." After I use the litter box, I usually wipe my rear on the towel or floor next to the litter box. I've heard that when canines or felines do this it means they're sick. Well, when we ferrets do it, we're being clean. I think that this behavior proves that we are much more closely related to humans — who also display this type of behavior — than dogs or cats. Now, which kind of animal would you want to share *your* raisins with?

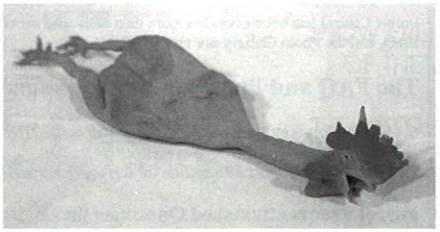
WARNING!
Chewed Toys

One of the most common causes of death in ferrets is intestinal blockage. Many ferret owners know that soft latex (rubber) toys are a danger to ferrets because the ferret can easily chew through them. But even hard rubber toys designed for large dogs can be a potential danger if your ferret manages to bite off a piece. Cloth toys can also present a danger if your ferret tears off a piece. A careful ferret owner thoroughly checks *all* toys for tears or other damage periodically. If you notice any signs of damage, throw away the toy. If your ferret is very attached to a particular toy and seems upset when you get rid of it, replace the toy or offer a new one. Remember that the toy your ferret plays with most often could be the toy that is most dangerous to him. The best way to prevent a tragedy is to supervise your ferret's play time and make sure his toys are safe and in good condition. You should be especially careful of toys that you leave in the cage with your ferret. Toys left in the cage should always be extra-safe — only hard toys that can't be chewed through. Inspect cage toys constantly for signs of wear.



This piggy was a hard rubber dog toy, and seemed safe until someone tried to chew off the tail.

Someone played a little too rough with this stuffed animal and tried to chew its ear off.



Watching ferrets drag this rubber chicken around the house (closely supervised) was a lot of fun until a ferret decided to chew off the chicken's beak.

Here is the Modern Ferret process for training baby ferrets:

for more info, see the article on page 34

When they first wake up, baby ferrets are full of energy (they may also need to use the litter box). We make sure that our hands are covered with Bitter Apple. Bitter Apple is a bad-tasting spray used to discourage animals from biting things. A baby ferret will hop around a lot and will try to grab at you the same way he grabs at other ferrets. If he does put his mouth on you, you want to make sure he gets the taste of the Bitter Apple. You want him to learn that this biting game tastes terrible when he tries to play it with people.

After the ferret tires out and slows down a bit (this can take a while, as the ferret starts growing), we wash the Bitter Apple off our hands. We then put a drop of Ferretone on our palm and introduce the ferret to it. The ferret then discovers that skin tastes great when it is licked. If the ferret tries to bite, we remove the treat. Thus, we are working both a punishment *and* reward system.

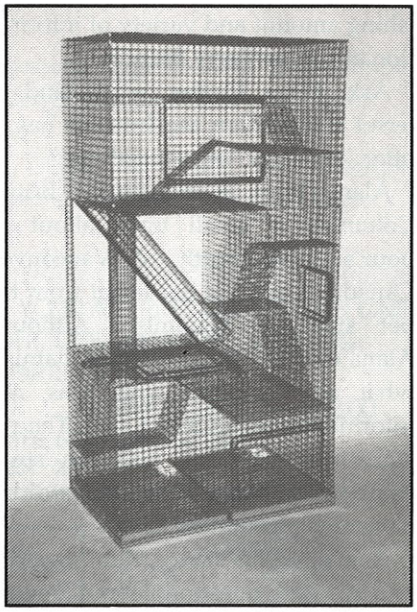
When the ferret is looking for a place to sleep or is sleeping, we try to pick up and hold the ferret without disturbing him too much. We hold him next to us and keep him warm. Some ferrets will take to this better than others. The more time they spend around you and the more comfortable they are doing so, the more they will continue to do so. They naturally like to sleep in a warm pile of ferrets — so let your ferret know that you're a nice big warm ferret too.

Kustom Built ♥

Kritter Kages

Designed Especially For Ferrets

Built To Your Design Or Ours!
Call Today For A Free Brochure!
(517) 323-8936



Featured Here
The Kondo
72" tall x 36" wide x 24" Deep

The Ulitimate In Living Quarters:
· Numerous levels, ramps & tunnels for your pets enjoyment
· Twin litter pans

All Kages are built of plastic coated wire for easy cleaning and long, lasting, good looks. Plastic coated wire is also easier on your pet's feet.

From Karrying Cages To King Size Apartment Communities... We Can Build One For You!

We also carry the only ferret litter pan that really works! References available upon request.
VISA MASTERCARD AMEX
Shipping Available

Ferrets On The Internet

by Christine Code

When you have a question about ferrets, where do you turn? One of the best sources of information is the Internet, where you'll find an astonishing amount and variety of information about our furry friends.

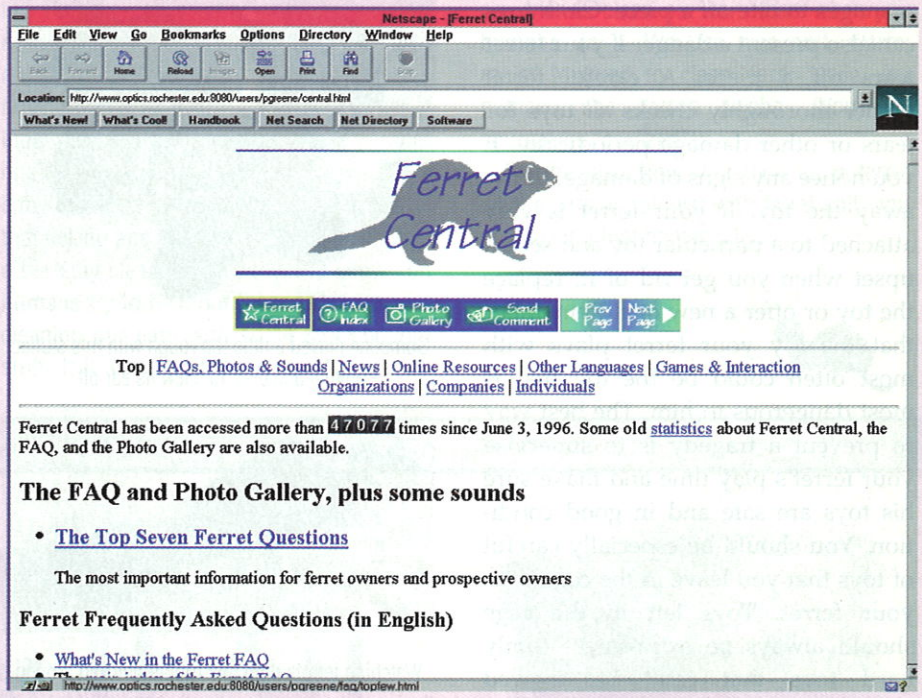
Ask Alana Harley what kind of ferret information the Internet has to offer, she'll say "oh, everything!"

Alana lives in Squamish, British Columbia, a small town about an hour's drive north of Vancouver, Canada. Alana got her ferret from the pet store in Squamish. Although Alana did find her ferret in Squamish, what she couldn't find was any information about ferret care. The pet store was no help, and the small community library in Squamish didn't have any information, either.

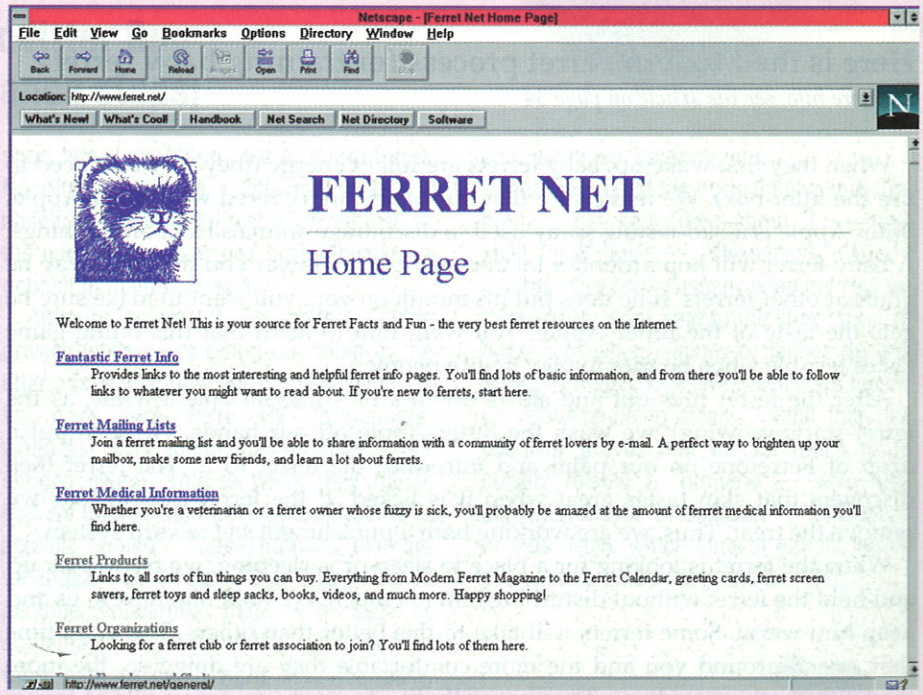
Alana and her fiancé, Rob Logiacco, had a lot of questions about how to look after the little albino ferret they called Moonie. What kind of toys would Moonie like to play with? What kind of treats would she like? What kind of veterinary care would she need? When they needed answers, Alana turned to the Internet for help.

"We were new to the Internet, but we wanted to know what size cage to build for Moonie," Alana explained. "We did an Internet Web search on ferrets and came up with some information from the United States somewhere. We sent e-mail and asked what size cage we should build. The reply came back the very next day!"

Alana was hooked. She did more searches, and found more and more ferret information on the Internet's World Wide Web. "On the Internet I learned that ferrets like raisins, that they like going for walks, that you can scratch the back of their necks and


Netscape - [Ferret Central]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Location: http://www.optics.rochester.edu:8080/users/pgreene/central.html
What's New! What's Cool! Handbook Net Search Net Directory Software
Ferret Central
Top | FAQs, Photos & Sounds | News | Online Resources | Other Languages | Games & Interaction
Organizations | Companies | Individuals
Ferret Central has been accessed more than 47077 times since June 3, 1996. Some old statistics about Ferret Central, the FAQ, and the Photo Gallery are also available.
The FAQ and Photo Gallery, plus some sounds
The Top Seven Ferret Questions
The most important information for ferret owners and prospective owners
Ferret Frequently Asked Questions (in English)
What's New in the Ferret FAQ

Pam Greene's site: Ferret Central


Netscape - [Ferret Net Home Page]
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help
Location: http://www.ferret.net/
What's New! What's Cool! Handbook Net Search Net Directory Software
FERRET NET
Home Page
Welcome to Ferret Net! This is your source for Ferret Facts and Fun - the very best ferret resources on the Internet.
Fantastic Ferret Info
Provides links to the most interesting and helpful ferret info pages. You'll find lots of basic information, and from there you'll be able to follow links to whatever you might want to read about. If you're new to ferrets, start here.
Ferret Mailing Lists
Join a ferret mailing list and you'll be able to share information with a community of ferret lovers by e-mail. A perfect way to brighten up your mailbox, make some new friends, and learn a lot about ferrets.
Ferret Medical Information
Whether you're a veterinarian or a ferret owner whose fuzzy is sick, you'll probably be amazed at the amount of ferret medical information you'll find here.
Ferret Products
Links to all sorts of fun things you can buy. Everything from Modern Ferret Magazine to the Ferret Calendar, greeting cards, ferret screen savers, ferret toys and sleep sacks, books, videos, and much more. Happy shopping!
Ferret Organizations
Looking for a ferret club or ferret association to join? You'll find lots of them here.

Christine Code's site: Ferret Net

...continued on page 32

Getting Onto The Internet

Once you have a computer and a modem, you need to find an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to provide your connection to the Internet. To find such a company, look under "Internet" in the phone book, or ask friends who are already on the Internet to recommend an ISP for you. The company you choose should provide the software you need and a bit of guidance in getting it set up.

Don't have a computer? Check with your public library to see if your community offers free Internet access.

Once you're on-line, you might want to read a couple of books or take an Internet course to learn the basics.

What's the World Wide Web?

The World Wide Web is a collection of documents available to Internet users. A Web site may contain text, photos, or even sound clips and short movie clips. Users can click on hypertext links (usually words that are underlined and in a different color) to jump to different topics on other Web sites. Click on a link that says Modern Ferret, for example, and you'll wind up at the Modern Ferret Web site.

Internet users can follow hypertext links around the Web, or search for Web sites on specific topics. It's also possible to type in the address of a Web site in order to go directly to that site. The Web address, or Universal Resource Locator (URL), of Modern Ferret magazine is http://www.modernferret.com.

What's a Web Browser?

A Web browser is the software program that you use for viewing the World Wide Web. The most popular browsers at the moment are Netscape and Internet Explorer.

How Can I View a Specific Web Site?

When you're connected to the Internet and you want your Web browser to show you a specific Web site, here is what to do:

In Netscape:

Choose File, Open Location. Type the URL (for example http://www.modernferret.com) and then press Enter.

In Microsoft Explorer:

Choose File, Open. Type the URL (for example http://www.modernferret.com) and then press Enter.

http://www.littlepaw.com

FROM LITTLEPAW PUBLISHING AND PRODUCTIONS!

Four Ferreteers Graphic Novel Now Only $10.00 While Supplies Last!!

SHOW EVERYONE YOUR A FERRET OWNER WITH ONE OF THESE BRIGHT, COLORFUL, EYECATCHING T-SHIRTS OR SWEATS!!,

T-SHIRTS - $15.00 SWEATSHIRTS - $22.00

AVAILABLE IN WHITE, GRAY AND NATURAL

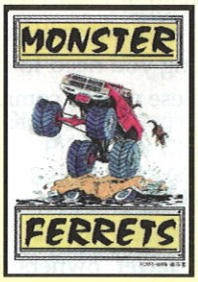
IN SIZES : CHILEREN - XS, S, M, L

ADULT - S, M, L, XL, 2X (2X ADD ADDITIONAL $3.00

YOUR HOME FOR YOUR ORIGINAL FERRET T-SHIRTS AND SWEATS!!

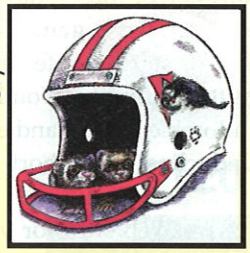
Style 26

Style 27



Style 6

Style 21



Style 5

Design printed on front and back of shirt!

ADD A CAPTION OF YOUR CHOICE AT NO ADDITIONAL COST!

CAPTION 9

Style 30

Style 4

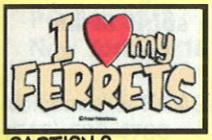
Style 18

Includes caption: Ferrets are like potato chips.... you can't have just one!

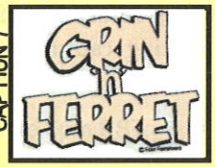
Style 28

Style 2

CAPTION 8



CAPTION 7



Please send me _____ Graphic Novels at only $10.00 ea.

Qty_____Size_____Style_____Adult/Child_____T-Shirt/Sweat_____Color_____Caption____Total_____

Qty_____Size_____Style_____Adult/Child_____T-Shirt/Sweat_____Color_____Caption____Total_____

Qty_____Size_____Style_____Adult/Child_____T-Shirt/Sweat_____Color_____Caption____Total_____

Qty_____Size_____Style_____Adult/Child_____T-Shirt/Sweat_____Color_____Caption____Total_____

Phone: 908-832-0991/ Fax: 908-832-6302

SUBTOTAL_____ + $3.00 S.H. = TOTAL_____

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone:

Make checks payable to:
LittlePaw Publishing and Production
P.O. Box 35
Califon, N.J. 07830

they'll yawn. Basically everything I know about ferrets comes from the Internet."

In addition to pages and pages of information about ferrets, Alana also found a ferret mailing list, which she joined. Now when Alana has a question, she sends it to the mailing list and waits for the other people on the mailing list to e-mail their replies to the group. "On the mailing list I asked a question once about how to keep ferrets out of your plants. I found out you can put tin foil or rocks around the bottom of the plant, and that helps. I learn a lot from seeing the questions other people ask, too, and the answers that [are] sent to the mailing list."

Some of the ferret owners Alana e-mails live thousands of miles away from her, but she has also used the Internet to find other ferret owners and even a ferret club in nearby Vancouver. "I've met a lot of ferret people now," she says, "and that's good so that you can trade ferret-sitting with somebody who lives near you. And I went to a hilarious ferret Halloween party. I found out about all of it on the Internet."

When asked what she would say to a ferret owner who isn't on the Internet, Alana replied: "I don't know what I would have done without the Internet ... it's the best place to find information about ferrets. If you're not on the Internet, you and your ferret are losing out on a great thing."

Ferrets on the World Wide Web

Once you're on the Internet, start browsing the World Wide Web and read up on any ferret topic you might possibly imagine: training ideas, fun ferret games, ferret medical information, directions for starting a ferret club — it's all there. And that's just the beginning. You'll find Web sites featuring photos of adorable ferrets, and even a few sites which include sound clips or a short ferret movie.

Here are some of the best ferret Web sites for you to explore:

ANIMALS ALIVE LTD
THE DISCOUNT PET SHOP
N.Y. STATE LICENSED FERRET DEALER
1926 WANTAGH AVENUE
WANTAGH, N.Y. 11793
OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-FRI TILL 8PM
516 783-FISH
516 783-3474

Ferret Central
http://www.optics.rochester.edu:8080/users/pgreene/central.html

Everything you could want to know about ferrets is covered at Ferret Central. This comprehensive site includes information on topics ranging from ferret associations to ferrets in art history; from ferret breeders and ferret products to first aid for ferrets.

Once you're at Ferret Central, be sure to follow the links to the Ferret FAQ, which is the list of Frequently Asked Questions on ferrets. The FAQ has essential information on just about every aspect of ferret behavior and ferret care, and should be required reading for every ferret owner.

Ferret World
http://ferret-world.csc.peachnet.edu/

Ferret World is especially fun if your computer has sound capabilities. Enjoy the ferret movie clip as you listen to the background music. Then explore the multitude of ferret links on this mega-site. If you have a slow connection to the Internet, brew a cup of tea while this site loads.

Ferret Mailing Lists
http://www.ferret.net/ferrlists/

When you're ready to join a community of ferret owners on the Internet, join a mailing list: a discussion group which communicates by e-mail. Any message you send to the list is copied and e-mailed to all of the other list members. Members can reply to each others' comments or questions, or start new topics of discussion. The Ferret Mailing Lists Web site includes information about regional and international mailing lists. Here you'll find everything you need to know in order to get started with one of these virtual communities.

Personal Ferret Sites

Many ferret owners have created Web sites which feature their own ferrets. Here are just a few favorite personal ferret sites:

Wildlife
http://www-personal.umich.edu/%7Ecshaffer/wildlife.html

Catherine Shaffer's writing captures the spirit of life with ferrets.

Ferret of Borg
http://www.crl.com/~valerie/

The Ferret of Borg is darn cute, and the photo on this site will prove it to you.

Leonard's and Elayne's ferrets
http://www.teleport.com/~leonard/pets/pets.html

Leonard and Elayne have 11 ferrets, and they're all featured on this site. There's a short description and a small photo of each ferret.

The Five Ferrets
http://www.epix.net/~ferret/

The five ferrets are Buddy, Brandon, Bosco, Boston, and Bentley. Their Web site includes fun text and optional photos.

Christine Code is owned by five ferrets: Madeline, Theodore, Kai, Augustus, and Mocha. She teaches Internet classes in Vancouver, Canada, and is President of the Greater Vancouver Ferret Association. Christine's own ferret pages are on the Web at:
http://www.ferret.net/
Her e-mail address is cmc@ferret.net

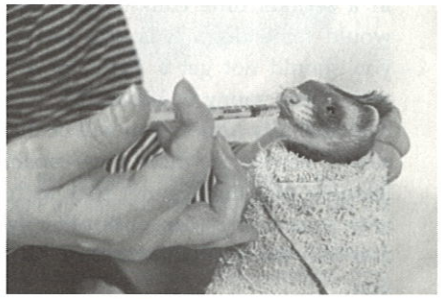
Sabrina Says:

How To Give Bad-Tasting Medicine

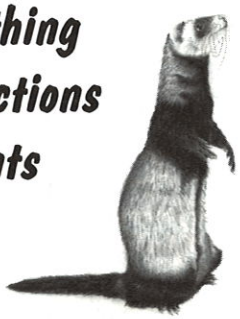
Sick ferrets are often still strong enough to push away bad-tasting medicine. To get the medicine into the ferret, scruff him to keep him still. If this doesn't work, wrap the ferret in the towel while scruffing him to keep his front feet from reaching his mouth. The towel should be snug near the neck and looser around the rest of the body. Be careful not to wrap too tightly. Now you can get the medicine to your ferret's lips without him pawing your hand away.

Never put medicine into the back of your ferret's throat — he will choke. Lift the ferret's lip and dribble the medicine between the cheek and gums. Another trick is to put a drop of Ferretone or other lickable treat (Nutri-Cal, Ferretvite) on the ferret's nose and, as he begins to lick, dribble the medicine onto the tip of his tongue.
(Thanks to Dr. Michael Dutton for his help.)

Note:
This is a feeding syringe (no needle) used to accurately measure the amount of medicine.



Something Productions presents



Things From England

Send your order to:
Something Productions
PO Box 3318
New York NY 10163

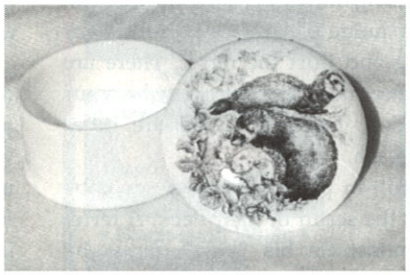
Voicemail or FAX 9am to 5pm EST
(718) 539-4796

SEND #10 SASE FOR FREE CATALOG!
Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

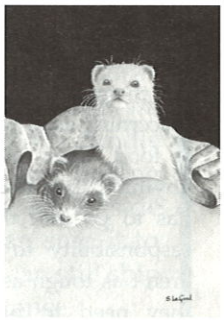
NEW PRODUCTS ALL THE TIME!

Stonecast Begging Ferret
Pierced or Clip-on
$22.00 + $3.00 S&H
16" Necklace
$16.00 + $3.00 S&H

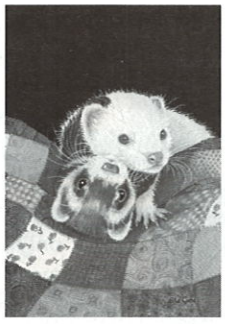


Bone China Trinket Box
2 1/2" Diameter
Shipped Direct from the UK
$15.00 + $3.00 S&H
also available
9" Collector's Plate — $39.95 + $7.00 S&H
4" Teacup & Coaster — $18.00 + $4.00 S&H

❑ 201



❑ 202



❑ 203

❑ 204

5" by 7" color mini prints
$5.00 each + $3.00 S&H
Set of 4 $18.00 + $3.00 S&H

Wholesale discounts for orders of 50 sets or more. Send for product details and price lists.

Bringing Up Baby

nip training

by Eric Shefferman

One of the essential aspects of raising your baby ferret is teaching him proper behavior. The consistency of your training efforts is very important — and is one of the reasons we suggest that you not get a ferret if you are not ready to put in a serious time commitment (as you would for a dog). It is also the reason you should not get a ferret for a child who is too young to handle the training responsibility (unless you will be there to assist). Ferrets are more than capable of learning that they cannot play as rough with you as they can with other ferrets and that they cannot use their teeth on you.

Ferrets are built to play rough with each other. They have thick skin and tons of energy. Ferret play is "mock battle" — they rough each other up. On top of this, baby ferrets may be teething when you get them and/or they may not be very discerning as to what they test to see if it is food. Their mouth is their hand — anything they want to move or pick up has to go into their mouth. It is your responsibility to teach them that you aren't as tough as other ferrets, and that they need to play gentler with you.

Tools of the trade:
Bitter Apple from the Grannick's Bitter Apple Company is a really bad taste and will discourage ferrets from biting anything with Bitter Apple on it. Ferretone from Eight in One Pet Products, Inc., is a liquid vitamin supplement that ferrets like the taste of and will encourage them to lick.

Patience, love, understanding, and consistency will go a long way. Remember that you are doing this training for both you and your ferret — in many states, ferrets (and their owners) still face dire consequences in the event of a bite incident.

Some ferrets may be more difficult to train than others, and some ferrets may come from abuse situations. In general, those ferrets will require similar techniques, but with even more patience, love, and understanding.

Ferrets teach each other how to play with each other. If a ferret bites another ferret too hard, the bitten ferret will yelp and give the biter a hard chomp in return. After a bit of experimentation, they learn what the limits are. You want to consistently communicate on the ferret's terms to teach him that your limits are more gentle. At the same time, you can reward your ferret for licking you.

Many ferret sources recommend flicking the ferret in the nose as a reprimand for biting. While this technique can work, there are two concerns: (1) The ferret may take this as an escalation of "play" aggression and try to bite again now that your are playing his game. (2) New ferret owners might misjudge the amount of force they are using and hurt the ferret. There are times when nose flicking may be your only option; however, there are other ways to teach.

The built-in parental control for baby ferrets is the scruff of their neck. A ferret will demonstrate his "boss" status by grabbing another ferret by the scruff and holding him. When your ferret plays too rough, you can grab him by the scruff and pick him up. You will want to support him from below as you do this — especially as he gets older and gains weight. Holding your ferret like this signifies that you are his boss and you

Bosco demonstrates how you can hold your finger in the mouth after a ferret has grabbed your finger with his mouth. This is uncomfortable for the ferret, while letting you control the amount of force you are using. We prefer this method to striking the ferret. Once ferrets get older, their jaws are too strong to use this method on them.

can grab him and hold him like this when he is misbehaving. Most ferrets will hang limp, and perhaps even yawn, when scruffed. You can hold the ferret like this until he calms down. Some ferrets do not scruff well — they start to thrash about and resist. You want to help them relax when you are scruffing them so they will get used to it. You'll want to scruff your ferret to hold him still for everything from cleaning his ears to administering medication, so helping him learn that he should relax when you scruff him is important.

Another technique that is easy to control is holding your finger in the ferret's mouth. If the ferret tries to bite you, make sure your finger stays in his mouth. Hold you finger like that so the ferret realizes that getting the finger in his mouth was not desirable after all. This method does not involve striking the ferret, so it is easier to be sure you are not hurting the ferret — just making the ferret uncomfortable for a few moments. This method will not work on older ferrets who may have strong jaws that can hurt you.

You can also look directly at your

ferret and shout "No!" or "Ouch!", alone or in combination with the techniques above. Another alternative is to hiss at them — hissing is their way of expressing displeasure with a situation or each other. Ferrets will yelp when another ferret bites them too hard, so this is a communication they will understand. Some ferrets are more sensitive to sound than others and some ferrets are deaf (often those with a blaze pattern, panda pattern, or dark-eyed whites). Obviously, a deaf ferret will not heed your shouting; however, it may make you feel better.

Coating your hands (or whatever else you don't want the ferret to bite) with Bitter Apple spray is also a useful technique. Bitter Apple is available at most pet supply stores. To most ferrets, the taste of Bitter Apple is really bad, and they will try to avoid getting that taste again. This has the benefit of being automatic — the bad taste is already there waiting for them to misbehave. If your ferret doesn't mind Bitter Apple, you can try Bitter Lime.

Another technique is based on rewarding the ferret for licking skin. Make sure you have washed off any Bitter Apple you might have on. Place a drop of Ferretone (a liquid vitamin formula available in most pet stores) on your palm. Most ferrets love the taste and will lick it off you. This reinforces that licking people is a good thing. If the ferret bites, remove the treat. Try to do this when your ferret is tired (less likely to be in a nipping mood).

Remember that baby ferrets have to learn about everything. Avoid giving them an opportunity to do anything you don't want them to do. For example: Don't bring your baby ferret near your nose without holding him securely. He may try to grab that big thing with the only tool he has — his mouth. Wait until you both know each other better. In the beginning, hold your hand around his head, so that if you feel him opening his mouth to grab, you can move him away. As he learns to treat you more gently, you can give him more leeway.

Watch for accidentally teaching bad habits. If the ferret bites you and you put him down to run around, you have taught him to bite you to get what he wants. If the ferret bites your ankle, and you squeal and start playing chase, you have taught him to bite to initiate play. While you may feel it's OK to tolerate such behavior from your ferret, other people will not and will consider your ferret nasty.

You will probably want to use a combination of these techniques to demonstrate to your ferret that biting people is not acceptable.

You will also want to work with your ferret to teach him how to handle various situations. Although I don't suggest poking a finger into ANY animal's cage and teasing the animal, many people (and their children) do. It is better to poke a Bitter Apple covered finger in to the cage a few times and teach the ferret not to bite such fingers, than to risk your ferret biting some uneducated stranger's finger out in public. Also teach the ferret to let you play with his paws, etc. That will make both routine nail clipping and veterinary checkups easier. We try to get all of our ferrets to eat food from our hands. They learn to pick the food up carefully, and it's a great way to get them to hold still for you.

A well trained ferret is a pleasure, as they don't mind close personal contact and are a joy to rub against your nose. By making sure your ferrets are well-behaved, you are doing your part to help improve the public perception of ferrets.

Eric Shefferman felt that an article on nip-training was a perfect excuse to get more ferrets.

Trixie is our scruffing model. Holding a ferret by the scruff of the neck demonstrates that you are the boss — it is the same thing that ferrets do to each other to demonstrate who is boss. It doesn't hurt the ferret and is useful for everything from letting a ferret know he bit you too hard to getting the ferret to hold still for ear cleaning.

Uncle Marc says:

Are you looking for that special COLOR ferret?
Can't find enough ferret supplies in your pet store?
Then call us at "Parrots of the World" — although we really should be called "Ferrets of the World." We handle over 100 ferrets per week, and if you are looking for a particular color we will be glad to set it aside for you. If you live out of state we can ship it to you. If you live out of the country, we can still ship it to you! Shipping costs vary with distance.

• Sable •

• Panda •

• Cinnamon •

• Black-eyed White •

• Blaze •

• Silver •

• Marked White •

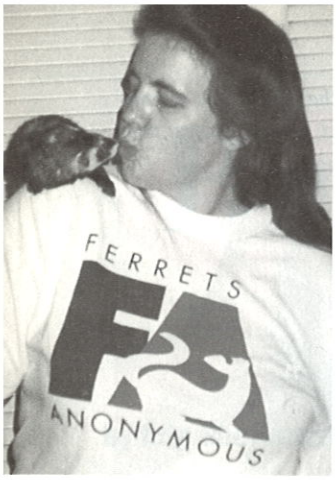
Parrots of the World Ltd.

239 A Sunrise Highway
Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570

Open 7 Days
We accept VISA, MC, AMEX

Totally Ferret Food Sold Here!

(718) 343-4141 FAX(516) 764-0125 (516) 764-0717



Ferrets and Humans in History

by Claudia Taake

Ever since my husband and I brought home our first ferret, I have been asking myself the question: "Where have these animals *been* all my life?" Until we adopted Pixel, I had only seen a ferret once before in my life, even though I grew up in Germany, where ferrets are popular pets.

I soon developed an interest in uncovering ferret lore that reveals glimpses of the co-existence and co-dependence of humans and ferrets, as well as related mustelids, throughout history. In doing so, I have left aside all references and descriptions of mustelids as fur-bearing animals killed for their hides or as working animals used for ratting, hunting, and other tasks. I was interested to find out about people and their pet ferrets in the past, as well as to discover general attitudes towards and expectations of members of the weasel family, beyond hunting them for fur or putting them to work. My search has uncovered a wealth of sources from Europe, but very little information from other parts of the world.

When I began my search for the "first" ferret references in recorded history, I turned to descriptions of ancient Egypt. Even as a relatively new ferret owner, I had heard and read at least a dozen times that ferrets had been domesticated for at least 3,000 years and that the ancient Egyptians kept ferrets for pets and hunting.

I soon discovered that this claim is not well substantiated. There is no fossil record or other archeological evidence that supports the claim that ferrets were well-known in ancient Egypt. In fact, the idea that ferrets date to the ancient Egyptians appears to be based on a single hieroglyphic from approximately 5000 BC. According to experts, the animal depicted could well be a ferret; it could just as easily be a weasel, a mongoose, or even a lizard. In other words, there *may* have been ferrets in ancient Egypt, but nobody so far has been able to prove it. On the other hand, nobody has disproved the idea, either.

Leaving aside the possible presence of ferrets in ancient Egypt as an unanswered question, I turned instead to more recent sources, drawing on history, folklore, literature, and art. I mainly limited my search to the occurrence of ferrets and weasels (as the most well-known member of the mustelid family), but I have included other mustelids in a few places.

My compilation is not intended to be a complete or exhaustive "history of ferrets." It is meant to provide an entertaining series of "snapshots" to illustrate the long, if sometimes murky, and often amusing history of humans and mustelids.

The British Isles

In folklore and literature, especially from the British Isles, weasels have often been associated with bad luck or viewed as a bad omen:

"If a weasel run across his path, he will not pursue his walk until someone else has traversed the road, or until he has thrown three stones across it."
—Theophrastus, *Characters* (ca. 319 BC)

"I stumbled coming down stairs and met a weasel, bad omens those."
—Congreve, *Love for Love* (1695)

"I have known People who have been put into ... terrible apprehensions of death by the squeaking of a weasel."
—Defoe, *Memoirs of Mr. Campbell* (1732)

"A weasel crossing your path is most unlucky: it speaks of treachery... Drop a coin on the road where you saw the weasel cross, and the evil ... will cling to those who are unlucky enough to find it."
—Blakeborough, *Yorkshire Customs* (1898)

Strangely enough, in British folklore, purses made from weasel skin have been described quite differently, as objects of luck and good fortune:

"My wife was usually fond of a weasel skin purse, as being the most lucky."
—Goldsmith, *Vicar of Wakefield* (1799)

"A purse made from a weasel's skin will never want for money; but the purse must be found, not given or made."
—Speranza Wilde, *Superstitions of Ireland* (1887)

Aside from folklore beliefs about encountering members of the weasel family, weasels and their relative have made guest appearances throughout history in European art and literature. This indicates widespread familiarity with these animals, as well as their

characteristic features and behaviors. Such familiarity, in turn, reflects the fact that members of the weasel family have been domesticated in Europe for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years.

The particular "hunched" or "hump-backed" posture characteristic of ferrets and their relatives was as familiar to Shakespeare and his audience as it is to ferret owners today:

Hamlet: Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?
Polonius: By the mass, and 'tis like a camel indeed.
Hamlet: Methinks it is backed like a weasel.
Polonius: It is backed like a weasel.
Hamlet: Or like a whale?
Polonius: Very like a whale.
—William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (1602)

Four centuries ago, Shakespeare also knew about the mischievous, "egg-stealing" reputation of mustelids, using it to create a humorous analogy, with vivid imagery that still works today:

"I can suck melancholy out of a song as a weasel sucks eggs."
—William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (1599–1600)

United States

Some 300 years after Shakespeare's writing, Theodore Roosevelt also attempted to use the imagery associated with "egg-sucking weasels" to make a point. The exact meaning of his words, however, remains unclear, even when keeping in mind that "weasel word" is a rare colloquial expression defined as "to speak nonsense in such a way that it appears to be true or pertinent" (the word has had the meaning sucked out of it):

"One of our defects as a nation is a tendency to use what have been called 'weasel words'. When a weasel sucks eggs the meat is sucked out of the egg. If you use a 'weasel word' after another, there is nothing left of the other."
—Theodore Roosevelt, from a speech given in St. Louis (May 31, 1916)

Superstitions

Given the power of folklore beliefs, superstitions, and common misconceptions throughout history, along with a human tendency to judge alike things that look alike, it is amazing to note that with all the "bad press" weasels had to endure over the centuries, ferrets, a close relative of the weasel, were considered to have a special healing power in eighteenth and nineteenth century England. A serving of milk blessed by a ferret was believed to cure the whooping cough. A ferret would "bless" a bowl of milk by lapping it. The remainder of the milk was then believed to have curative powers and given to the patient:

...continued on page 40

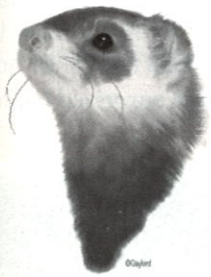
VISA MasterCard

The Stationery Ferret

VISA MasterCard

4673 WHITESANDS CT., DEPT M EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803

FERRET GREETING CARDS



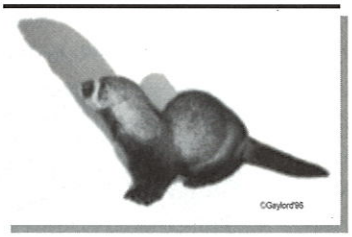
SET A

AN ASSORTMENT OF EVERYDAY NOTE CARDS BY CALIFORNIA ARTIST, LINDA GAYLORD. KNOWN IN THE SF BAY AREA FOR HER SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS, LINDA HAS TURNED HER ATTENTION TO OUR FAVORITE SUBJECT, **FERRETS.** THESE 4 X 6 INCH **COLOR** CARDS ARE BEING OFFERED IN SPECIALLY PRICED SETS FOR THE READERS OF MODERN FERRET.

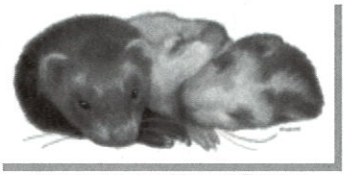
Each set of 12 cards is $10, plus $2 S&H.

Sets A, B, C feature 2 designs, 6 cards each.

Set D includes all 6 designs, 2 cards of each.

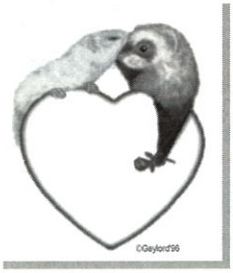


SET C



BY PERMISSION OF MODERN FERRET

SET B



SINGLE CARDS MAY BE SELECTED AND ORDERED FOR $1.50 PER CARD.
CA RES. ADD 8.5% TAX

ORDER BY MAIL OR PHONE

THE STATIONERY FERRET
4673 WHITESANDS CT., DEPT M
EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803

(510) 222-1415

FREE BROCHURE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EMAIL: CAT13DOG5@AOL.COM

Minding Your Own Business™

Our new additions to the Modern Ferret family — Trixie and Bosco da Gama.

Bosco da Gama

Trixie

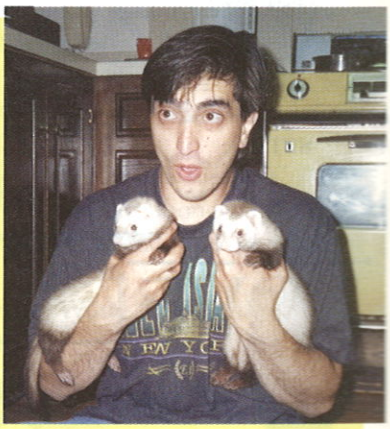
A "business" is the term for a group of ferrets, or in our case, a group of ferrets who write about ferrets!

Sabrina's first night with us. She waited through the whole car ride with us and then waited until we got litter in the box — then she immediately hopped in the box and pooped. She sure knew how to spoil us! This was her temporary cage — the store that had the one we wanted was already closed, and we wanted to make sure we bought a cage large enough for more than one ferret (just in case!). Her choice of sleeping position surprised us, but she seemed comfortable.

We were mentioned in the *New York Times* on January 2, 1997 as part of an article on niche magazines. The reporter seemed to like the name — *Modern Ferret* — and ran a quote from Eric, "People tend to feel they're the only ferret owner out there, when really they're not," relating why we felt it was necessary to create a mainstream ferret magazine. Half of such narrow focus magazines do not make it to their second issue, so we're doing really well here at #9!

We take our holiday cookie baking very seriously — and we only bake from scratch!

Issue #9 is our first issue to re-use a UPC code — we started putting UPC codes on with issue #3. We finally made it!



This is our friend Arnold, along with Jerry and Bruce. When we first met Jerry, he and Arnold chased each other all through the house. Then Jerry curled up and went to sleep on Mary's lap — we were hooked on ferrets!

We only got one picture of this "mystery man" as he raced through the house. If anyone can help identify him, please let us know.

Why can't we answer the phone and chat with you about ferrets? Well, we're printing 20,000 copies of this issue. Assuming that only 2 people see each copy (conservative for the magazine industry), that's 40,000 people. If only 1% of you wanted to chat with us, that's 400 people. To talk to each of you for just one hour about ferrets would take 400 hours — that's 10 full work weeks! We just can't do it! That's why we recommend you join (or start!) a local ferret group — so you'll have someone to chat with, or even consult with in an emergency. If you want a chance to talk to us, try going to a ferret show we'll be at. Shows are days we have devoted to standing around talking to people, and we'd be glad to chat then. We'll be doing our best to be at every show in bold on the show calendar, and we'll probably be at a few of the other shows on the east coast. We're also working to get on TV shows. We were recently on the Fox News Channel's PET NEWS hosted by Brian Kilcommons. The show is LIVE and Ralph and Knuks behaved very nicely (Knuks burrowed into Eric's sweater sleeve, as she loves to do).

The cover from the first issue of *American Ferret*, a magazine from back in 1986 that only survived one issue. It sported a "Ferret Wars" (based on *Star Wars*) theme related to the struggle to legalize ferrets in California. Times have sure changed — we're on issue #9 & growing with each issue and *Star Wars* is being re-released in theaters (don't miss it!). Unfortunately, ferrets are still illegal in California.

Regarding the mail (we're doing our best to try to improve delivery):
1. If you move & don't tell us — we don't know! The Post Office gives you special cards to notify publishers — use them! Or write us a letter. Don't call, fax, or e-mail — that's likely to get misplaced or misunderstood. Thanks!
2. Please be patient. The Post Office is not always fast & they do lose some things. We received our November issue of *Success* magazine on December 2 (a week after we got the December issue). It happens even to big-time magazines. Because magazines are delivered to stores via UPS, the delivery can be much quicker than the mail. Please allow the mail at least 6 weeks to get to you (really!). If you don't get the magazine, let us know & we'll send a replacement. Just make sure that the problem isn't that you didn't tell us your new address (see point #1).

$11,000,000 PRIZE RELEASE
If you have and return the winning entry, we'll say ...
ERIC SHEFFERMAN, YOU'VE FINALLY MADE IT -- YOU'RE SET FOR LIFE WITH $11,000,000 GUARANTEED!
IMPORTANT:
YOU HAVE BEEN ISSUED A SPECIAL COLOR-CODED REPLY ENVELOPE. OPEN AT ONCE TO FIND IT! RETURN IMMEDIATELY — $11,000,000 AT STAKE!
TIME-SENSITIVE
#231 113 5358
Mr. Eric A. Shefferman
P.O. Box 338
Massapequa Park, NY 11762-0338

OK folks — if we win this, it will be a lot easier to expand the magazine!

Vaccination reactions:
We recently brought all the kids in for their canine distemper vaccinations. A few minutes after everyone got their shot, Sabrina started vomiting. While Sabrina was vomiting, Knuks quietly collapsed. Since she is usually pretty relaxed, it was only immediately noticeable because she had pooped on herself. Knuks was completely out. Our veterinarian, Dr. Ned Horowitz, did a fantastic job going back and forth between the two ferrets, administering medication and monitoring them. After a while, Sabrina stopped vomiting, but Knuks was pretty still for a long time. After about an hour, Knuks was holding her head up a bit, but she still didn't have her usual facial expression — her eyes were wide open and vacant. Dr. Horowitz took her home with him so he could monitor her overnight. By the next day, Sabrina was feeling quite a bit better and Knuks was sluggish, but walking around. The day after that, Knuks was close enough to her usual self to be able to go on the PET NEWS show with us. So much for us getting any relaxation before going on live TV.
Remember to always wait at the veterinarian's office at least half an hour after any vaccination (this goes for people vaccinations too) just in case there is a reaction. Both Sabrina and Knuks had been vaccinated before with the same brand of vaccine, so there was no reason to suspect there would be a problem.
Trust us, if you have a reaction, you want to be where you can get prompt veterinary attention — so be sure to wait at the vet's office and monitor all your ferrets for unusual behavior.

"A boy came into my kitchen the other day with a basin of new milk, saying his mother hoped I would let my white ferret drink half of it, and then he would take the other half home to the bairn to cure its cough."
—Henderson, *Northern Counties* (1866)

"For the hooping cough...let the patient drink some milk which a ferret has lapped."
—*Gentleman's Magazine* (1867)

"For whooping cough — Milk to be poured into a saucer, a ferret to drink some of it and the rest to be given to the patient."
—Folklore/Oral History (1893)

I have to admit that this magical ferret cure is among the strangest bits of information I have discovered while researching the history of ferret lore. Not only does it appear as a pure and futile superstition to our late twentieth-century minds, but I have also had no luck in trying to discover the origins of this strange belief. Most superstitions evolve out of certain beliefs and rituals, mixed with human hopes and fears. Could it be that the whooping cough was such a dread disease at one time that an act of ritual — even if it had no basis in medical fact — was considered more useful than doing nothing? But why were pet ferrets chosen to bless the milk? Dairy products, including milk, are difficult for a ferret to digest and tend to cause diarrhea, at least in today's ferrets. Milk is definitely a problem food for ferrets, yet the whooping cough cure was believed to be effective only if a ferret had lapped the milk. Ferret owners always say their pets are special, compared to not only other ferrets, but also other kinds of pets. Maybe people in nineteenth century England felt the same way, and expressed their feelings by investing their ferrets with the power to cure a terrible disease.

A Noble Pet

Delving a little deeper into the history of pet ferrets and ferret ownership in Europe, it is notable that most records of pet ferret ownership relate to nobility. Italy, Poland, Britain, Germany, and Austria are among the countries whose records show that members of the royal houses, courts, and the nobility at some time owned or bred pet ferrets. This does not mean that pet ferrets were limited exclusively to members of the nobility — it simply means history has recorded more details of their lives, including ferret ownership.

Thus we know that Queen Elizabeth I of England raised her albino ferrets and gave them as gifts to visiting heads of state.

One of the most famous examples of pet ferret ownership among European nobility is a portrait by Leonardo da Vinci from late fifteenth century Italy.

In 1482, Ludovico II. Moro, Ruler of

BIG APPLE FERRETS

Presents:

FERRET EDUCATION DAY AND MARKETPLACE LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK APRIL 12, 1997 10am TO 4pm

Meet Mary and Eric from Modern FERRET™ and their ferrets!

Show up early and stay all day!

THE FIRST FERRET EVENT ON LONG ISLAND!

At the Firemen's Memorial Park Pavilion in Lindenhurst

Shelters • How-To Seminars • Veterinarians • Cages • Novelties • Crafts
Q & A Sessions • Training Tips • Books • Info for New Owners
Ferret Supplies • T-Shirts • Grooming Tips • Health Care Info
Fun Ferret Events (your ferret is welcome!*)
See Ferret Colors You've Never Seen Before!

Show up early and stay all day to learn all you can!

Vendors will include:

Eight in One Pet Products, Little Paw Publishing & Production, WarmFuzzy Ferret Rescue, TNT Ferret Rescue, *Modern Ferret*, Something Productions, and many more!

*All ferrets brought to the event should be up-to-date on their canine distemper and rabies vaccinations. Ferret owners should have a current NYS ferret license. There is always the risk of exposure to infectious diseases when bringing your ferret to social gatherings. It is recommended that you allow minimal exposure to the other pets at the event. Big Apple Ferrets and the sponsors of the event will not be responsible for any sickness or injury to any spectator, vendor, or ferret, or any damage to equipment or personal property. Any incident related to the ferrets are the owner's responsibility. Big Apple Ferrets reserves the right to refuse entry or expel any individual, vendor, or animal.

Sponsored by Eight in One Pet Products and Modern Ferret Magazine

Directions:

Lindenhurst Firemen's Memorial Pavilion

Interstate 495 (LIE) to exit 49S (Rte 110 South) to Rte 109E. At 2nd traffic light on 109 turn right on to Wellwood Avenue (South). 4/10 mile past Sunrise Hwy (Rte 27), turn left on to Hartford St. Building & Parking Lot are 1 block down on left at stop sign.

- or -

Southern State Pky to exit 35S (Wellwood Ave). Pass over Sunrise Hwy (Rte 27). 4/10 mile after Sunrise Hwy, turn left on to Hartford St. Building & Parking lot are 1 block down on left at stop sign.

$3 for adults
$1 for children (12 & under)

For more info call:

(212) 388-8652

Milan, Italy, invited Leonardo da Vinci to live at his court. Soon after, Leonardo painted a portrait of Cecilia Gallerani, Ludovico's mistress. Today, this painting is widely known as "Lady with an Ermine," or "Lady with the Ferret," depending on how you choose to interpret it.

Even though any ferret owner will recognize the strong resemblance between an albino ferret and the animal in the painting, the title "Lady with an Ermine," is more commonly considered correct. Perhaps this is because the white ermine was considered a symbol of purity. In addition, the animal's Greek name suggested the name of the model, Cecilia Gallerani.

Ferret or ermine, the animal in the painting stands out as being quite big (my guess is 5+ lbs.), well-muscled, and well-exercised. Its body lines are exquisite, reflecting da Vinci's obsession with anatomical detail. The animal does not appear to have red eyes, supporting the argument that it is a white ermine, and not an albino ferret. On the other hand, it has very ferret-like, with small ears close to the head. Even though the entire head appears to be a little wider and more elongated than those of today's ferrets, I have seen a couple of very big albino ferrets whose faces were shaped almost exactly like the ferret's/ermine's in the painting. Thus, I like to think of Cecilia Gallerani's portrait as "Lady with the Ferret." The original is located in an art gallery in Krakow, Poland.

Recent History

Finally, to round out this expedition, and get back into a more twentieth century frame of mind, I offer the following quotes, reflecting more recent views of weasels and polecats:

"Some weasel took the cork out of my lunch."
—W.C. Fields, *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man* (1939 film)

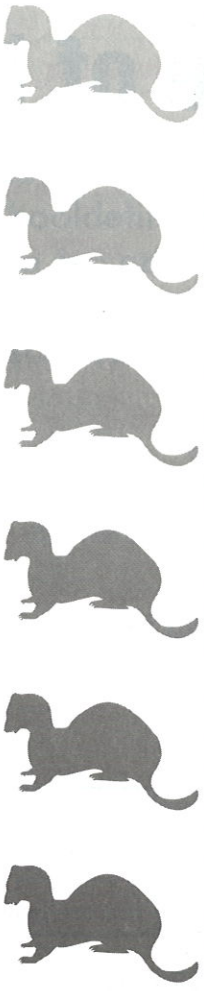
"But what would you say your plays are *about*, Mr. Pinter?"
"The weasel under the cocktail cabinet."
—Harold Pinter, in *Anger and After* by J.R. Taylor (1962).

"It is not necessary that every time he rises, he should give his famous imitation of a semi-housetrained polecat."
—Michael Foot (1978), British politician and Labour Party Leader

References

1. Augarde, Tony. *The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations*. Oxford University Press. 1991.
2. Bramley, Serge. *Leonardo — the Artist and the Man*. Penguin Books, London. 1988.
3. Broadie, Ian. *Ferrets & Ferreting*. Blandford Press, Poole, England. 1987.
4. Church, Bob. History of the Domesticated Ferret. Unpublished manuscript. 1996.
5. Magnusson, Magnus. *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*. W & R Chambers Ltd., Edinburgh, Scotland. 1990.
6. Opie, Iona & Tatem, Moira, Eds. *A Dictionary of Superstitions*. Oxford University Press. 1989.
7. *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 3rd ed. Oxford University Press. 1980.
8. Roberts, Mervin F. *All About Ferrets*. T.H.F. Publications, Neptune City, NJ. 1977.
9. Romei, Francesca. *Masters of Art: Leonardo da Vinci — Artist, Inventor and Scientist of the Renaissance*. Peter Bedrick Books, New York. 1994.
10. Sleeman, Paddy. *Stoats & Weasels, Polecats & Martens*. Whittet Books, London. 1989.

Claudia Taake is a professional translator and co-owner of a small publishing company. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Brad Falk, and two ferrets, Pixel (Queen Ferret) and four-month-old Benito, who is bucking for the job of Court Jester.



EXCLUSIVE HANDMADE PRODUCTS FOR FERRET LOVERS!

FERRET CURIOSITY Shop

Ferret Curiosity Shop
801-665 Bathgate Dr.
Dept. MF
Ottawa ON K1K 3Y4
CANADA

Toll free: 1-888-327-4676
Fax: 1-613-741-6075

e-mail: fcshop@ferretcuriosity.on.ca
http://www.ferretcuriosity.on.ca

SUNCATCHERS

Dreaming of owning a dark-eyed white ferret? Purchase one of our DEW suncatchers!

Handpainted plastic suncatchers featuring white ferrets: an inquisitive one or one with a mouthful of grapes. Transparent thread and mini suction hook included.

$2.95 S-DEW: 4"x 4"

S-JG: 4 1/2"x 6"

CUTTING BOARD

This ferret won't steal grapes from your counter!

Available in solid yellow birch, natural finish.

CB-YB: 9"x 18"x 3/4" Cutting surface approximately 11 1/2"x 7" $17.95

Prices in U.S. funds, surface shipping: Up to $13.00= $3.00 $13.01-$20.00=$4.50 $20.01-$27.00=$6.00
Extra cost for air: $2.00 Orders are shipped in unmarked boxes to serve our customers in ferret free zones. Payment by VISA, cheque or money order. Please write or phone to be included on our mailing list. Please call for prices in Canadian funds. Visit our WWW catalog, it includes color photos of our products!

You CAN take it with you!

Knuks says:

Modern Ferret is PORTABLE! That means you can take it wherever you go (just like ME!). And now you can get it delivered to your door at a special low price!

Subscribe to *Modern Ferret* or renew your subscription for a special price of just $19.95*

To celebrate our incredible growth over these past years, we're testing a new lower subscription price. Subscribers are the lifeblood of a magazine and we'd like to have a lot more of 'em. So now you can get a regular US six-issue subscription (or add six issues to your current subscription) for just $19.95. So send in your subscription today and show your support for *Modern Ferret*!

US Subscriptions:

$19.95 for six issues via third class mail
$34.95 for six issues "Plain Wrapper" via first class mail (comes in an opaque envelope with no ferret markings on the outside)

Foreign Subscriptions (in US$ drawn on a US bank only)

$34.95 for six issues to Mexico & Canada
$50.00 for six issues everywhere else

Send to:

Modern Ferret - Dept M9
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762
USA

Sorry!
We cannot accept credit cards or phone orders!

Please send check or money order payable to Modern Ferret.
Thank you!

* Third class subscriptions are regularly $24.95.

NOTE:
Modern Ferret is intended to be published 6 times a year. We are currently achieving 4 issues a year, but are gradually catching up!

Please specify whether this is a NEW subscription or a RENEWAL

Ferret Owned Survey

This gathering of information is to profile ferrets and the people who live with them. Before filling this out, please make 5 or more copies and give them to 5 ferret owned friends, take copies to the local pet shop that sells ferrets, the local ferret breeder or rescue, or send to the ferret club that you know. STAR* is asking for the largest distribution possible. If you have a newsletter or ferret gathering, please give this survey the widest distribution. The first tabulation of results will be available from STAR* on 2/1/97, and anytime thereafter, for a SASE.

A note from *Modern Ferret*:
This is an anonymous survey to help gather information about ferret owners and their ferrets. Please fill out both sides of this survey (make as many photocopies as you need) and have your ferret owning friends fill it out as well. The more information that can be gathered, the more accurate the profile of ferret owners can be made. We at *Modern Ferret* Magazine feel that this survey can do a lot to help ferrets, and are running it in the magazine to give it the widest possible distribution. *Please fill it out and send it in.*

1. How many ferrets live on a permanent basis with you as of 12/1/96? 1
2. Please list their colors (albino, mitts, sable, etc.), sex, and ages as of 12/1/96:
   a. Sable, 1 year, male
   b.
   c.
   d.
   e.

   If you need to note more, please attach a separate sheet.
3. Where was your **first** ferret obtained?

   (Pet Shop) Breeder Shelter Found
   Friend Ad Other:
4. Using the choices above, where did you obtain your other ferrets?

   Second ferret: Pet shop Third ferret:
   Fourth ferret: Fifth ferret:

   If you need to note more, please attach a separate sheet.
5. When did you get your first ferret? Jan 24, 96 Date:
6. Have you had ferrets that passed away? no

   If so, how old were they and what was the cause (if known)?

   Did a vet make this determination?

Survey is continued on next page...

Please mail this survey when complete to:
Enclose a SASE (long) for results and more info.

STAR* Ferrets
PO BOX 1714
Springfield VA 22151-0714

Ferret Owned Survey

...continued from page 43

7. What other pets and how many did you own as of 12/1/96?

   Dogs: 1 Cats: Birds: Reptiles:

   Rabbits: Fish: Small Rodents:

   Small Exotics (hedgehogs, prairie dogs, chinchillas, skunks, squirrels, opossums, sugar gliders, pot bellied pigs, etc.): Large Animals (horses, goats, etc.):

8. Which lived with you first, another pet or a ferret? another Pet

9. Please list your ZIP code: 48067

   Do you (Own) Lease, or Rent?

   Apartment Condominium Town House Duplex

   (Single Family Home) Farm Other:

10. How do you classify your living location?

    (City) Suburbs Country Other:

11. Are Married or Single/Divorced? Single Male (Female) Age: 21

12. Level of Education: (High School) BA/BS MA/MS PhD

13. What is your gross annual income?

    (under $30,000) $30-60,000 over $60,000

    What is your spouse / partner's gross annual income?

    under $30,000 $30-60,000 over $60,000

14. What is your profession? Student

15. Do you presently belong to a ferret club? Yes (No)

    Subscribe to a newsletter or magazine specifically about ferrets?

    Yes / (No)

16. Where did you obtain this survey? Internet (Magazine)

    Friend Club Newsletter Pet Shop Breeder

    Shelter Other

Please mail this survey when complete to:
Enclose a SASE (long) for results and more info.

STAR* Ferrets
PO BOX 1714
Springfield VA 22151-0714

Contests!

Pink Noses™ PHOTO CONTEST

Your Ferret Famous

Do you have a photogenic ferret? Your ferret's photo could be on the next *Modern Ferret* trading card (or here in the magazine)! Here's how:

*All ferrets, regardless of nose color, are eligible.

*Pick out your favorite glossy finish photo(s).

*Write the following information for each photo. Your name, address, phone number, and your ferret's name. Please be careful to not damage your photo - we've had problems with ink bleeding through photos or rubbing off onto other photos.

*If there's something special about your ferret you'd like to mention, please do so!

*We regret that due to the sheer volume of photos we receive, we will no longer be able to return photos.

*Any of your photos that are published become eligible to be on trading cards or other *Modern Ferret* productions.

*By entering the contest, you grant permission to *Modern Ferret* to use the photos. Credit to the photographer is, of course, given.

SPONSORED BY:

Four Paws® Products Ltd.

FAN ART ART CONTEST

Rembrandt and Picasso may have fame, but YOU can get something they can't get — a $25 gift certificate to Discount Master! (And some fame in the ferret community.)

Break out the pencils, pens, paint, crayons, whatever! Please send us your original black and white or color pieces of ferret artwork. Any type of artwork is acceptable, as long as it features ferrets.

Contest entry grants *Modern Ferret* publication rights to the artwork. We will, unfortunately, not be able to return art submissions. If you have a special case/problem, please call us.

Please ship your art VERY carefully! Mail can sometimes be kinda' rough.

We will be running the Fan Art section in every issue of *Modern Ferret*, so keep sending in art! We'll run as many pieces as we can and the best submission from each issue will receive a $25 gift certificate from Discount Master Animal Care Catalog.

SPONSORED BY:

DISCOUNT MASTER ANIMAL CARE CATALOG

Send all contest entries to:

Modern Ferret
attn: _____ Contest
PO BOX 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762

If your entry in any of the contests is a winner, we will send you extra copies of the issue you were in once it is in print.

FOR A SPECIAL MODERN FERRET SUBSCRIPTION SAVINGS OFFER
SEE PAGE 42

FUNNY FERRET TRICKS

Humor Contest

Ferrets are pretty goofy creatures! Now we'd like to celebrate the ferret's comic nature with a humor contest. What lengths does your ferret go to for a treat? What funny predicaments has your ferret gotten into? You can show us by sending a photo or short story. We'll try to run as many as space permits.

*The top 5 entries received will win a Ferretude T-shirt and the best entry received will also get a $25 value of Eight in One ferret products which includes new ferret canned treats and ferret canned diet.

*Please make sure you provide the following information: Your name, address, phone number, and your ferret's name.

*We regret that due to the sheer volume of entries we receive, we will not be able to return entries.

*By entering the contest, you grant permission to *Modern Ferret* to use your submission in the magazine or related materials. In any usage, credit to the submittor will be given.

SPONSORED BY:

8 in 1 Diet

MODERN FERRET'S CONTESTS ARE SPONSORED BY OUR REGULAR ADVERTISERS - PLEASE SHOW THEM YOUR SUPPORT!

Ferret Events Calendar

This listing is updated as new/more complete information is received.

February

16 — Ferret Friends of Indian River County (FFIRC) Ferret Show. Location: Florida. For information: 407-567-0994.

22 — Legion of Superferrets, Washington (LOS-WA) championship show; sanctioned by the League of Independent Ferret Enthusiasts (LIFE). Location: Seattle, WA. For information: 206-838-7341.

March

1 — American Ferret Association championship show, "Ferret Expo '97"; sanctioned by the American Ferret Association (AFA). Location: New Carrollton Ramada, New Carrollton, MD. For Information: 1-888-FERRET-1.

8 — Great Lakes Ferret Association Fun Match. Location: Lansing, MI. For information: 517-323-8936. Booth space available.

22 — Loudoun Area Ferret Fanciers (LAFF) championship show & fun match, "Ferrets On Parade '97." Location: Capitol Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. For information: 703-777-2112.

22–23 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Prince George's Equestrian Center Showplace Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD. For information: 215-721-7199.

April

5 — Legion of Superferrets (LOS) National "All Specialty Fiasco '97". Location: Croydon, PA. For information: 215-781-9044.

12 — Big Apple Ferrets, Ferret Marketplace and Education Day. "First ferret event on LI." Location: Lindenhurst Fireman's Field (indoor), Lindenhurst, Long Island, NY. For information: 212-388-8652.

27 — Ferret Association of Rhode Island (FARI), "Ferret Frolic." Location: North Kingstown, RI. For information: 181 Stony Ln., N. Kingstown RI 02852 Phone: 401-294-6309 or 401-423-2460.

May

10 — Ferret Services of Freedom, Second Annual Ferret Fun Day (10am–4pm). Location: North Conway Community Center, North Conway, NH. For information: 603-539-5631 Stephanie Mudgett.

10 — Susquehanna Valley Ferret Club, "Ferret Frolic '97"; sanctioned by the League of Independent Ferret Enthusiasts (LIFE). Location: Holiday Inn and Conference Center, New Cumberland, PA. For information: 717-939-0625.

31–June 1 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Agriculture Hall at Allentown Fairgrounds, Allentown, PA. For information: 215-721-7199.

June

7 — Great Lakes Ferret Association championship show, "Ferret Quest '97." Location: Wayne Ford Civic League on Wayne Rd, Westland, MI. For information: 313-287-4572 or e-mail ferretfas@aol.com (Debbie Miller) or 517-328-3903 or e-mail weasils@iserv.net (Tracy Tunnison, Registrar).

21 — Second Annual Friends & Ferrets Walk for Ferret Wise Shelter, walk-a-thon to raise funds for Ferret Wise Rescue & Rehabilitation Shelter. Location: Keene, NH. For information: Ferret Wise, PO Box 561, Marlborough, NH 03455 or 603-876-4975.

August

9–10 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: NJ Convention & Expo Center at Raritan Center, Edison, NJ. For information: 215-721-7199.

22–24 — Ninth Small Mammal Veterinary Conference; sponsored by the American Ferret Association (AFA). Location: BWI Marriott, Baltimore, MD. For information: 1-888-FERRET-1.

October

4 — Legion of Superferrets (LOS) National championship show, "Ferret Fiasco '97"; sanctioned by the League of Independent Ferret Enthusiasts (LIFE). Location: Croydon, PA. For information: 215-781-9044.

November

1–2 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds, York, PA. For information: 215-721-7199.

29–30 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, PA. For information: 215-721-7199.

If your club is having a show or fun match, you must get the information to *Modern Ferret* as far in advance as possible. We can no longer list shows for which we have not received information. When submitting information for a show listing, please include the following:

1. Date. 2. Club/show sponsor (e.g., Anytown Ferret Club). 3. Show title, if any (e.g., "Ferret Show #1"). 4. Sanctioning body, if any (e.g., LIFE, NAFA, AFA, FURO). 5. Place of show (city, state, hall if known). 6. Contact (can be any or all: phone/fax/address/e-mail). These listings are FREE, so send in your information!

Remember — ferret shows are a great opportunity to meet experienced ferret owners and ask questions!

Note: Modern Ferret attempts to attend every show we can that is on the East Coast. Due to time spent on TV appearences and other publicity, we will be cutting back in 1997. We will make every effort to attend the shows that are listed in bold (barring unforseen health problems, bad weather, etc.). We will attend other shows provided we have time.

TOO MUCH FUN?

...I don't think so!

THE FERRET FUN FACTORY

#FHAR-LEAD

FERRET HARNESS LEAD COMBO

Unique habitat and living accessories for ferrets and their people!

Complete living systems

- Complements all Ferret Fun Factory habitat items
- Sturdy construction allows for "rough housing"
- Cozy retreats for sleepy ferrets

FERRET CARRY-GO-ROUND

#F-BAG

HIDE N' SLEEP SACK

#FO-SAC

EXERCISE FUN AND SECURITY

DREAMSCAPE HAMMOCK

#FS-HAM

FLYING CUBBY

#FH-SAC

FREE! FERRET FUN FACTORY HUMAN T-SHIRTS with two proof of purchase UPC Codes from FFF products! Specify Large or XLarge plus $4 shipping and handling.

TUNNEL O' FUN

#FS- TUB

FREE T-SHIRT

FERRET BIG TOP FUN TENT

#F-TENT

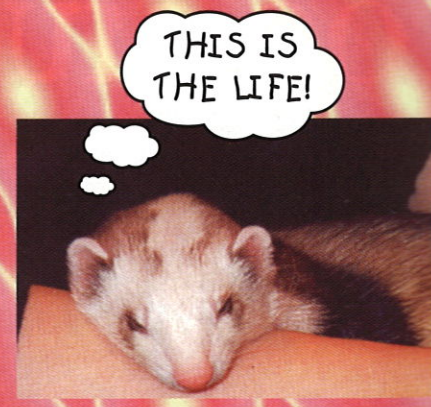
SEND TO:

Ferret Fun Factory T-Shirt Give Away
6109 SW 124th Ave. • Beaverton, OR, 97008
E-mail: dukesdog@teleport.com

Ask for these fine quality products at your local pet store.
Can't find the fun? Call us.
Dealers: Call your Distributor or for a distributor near you call **1-800-404-8653**

Ralph's Reviews IN COLOR

featuring: RALPH THE INSPECTOR



Ferret Bank
Ferret Curiosity Shop
801-665 Bathgate Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3Y4 Canada
888-327-4676 or Fax 613-744-6047

The Ferret Bank from the Ferret Curiosity Shop makes saving money fun. Save up for treats and toys for your ferrets (or maybe another ferret?). The bank is 4-1/2 inches tall, 10 inches long, and 1-1/2 inches wide. It makes a very nice gift for the other ferret lovers in your life or yourself. Made of natural-finish solid wood, the Ferret Bank has plexiglas sides so you can watch the ferret fill up with coins. You can open the bank by unscrewing one of the plexiglas sides.

Ralph's Review: "This ferret eats shiny round things with a slot in his back. I think it's because he doesn't have a mouth. I think every human should adopt one of these ferrets and give him lots of shiny round treats. He is a ferret, after all."

All Clear! Ferret Freeway
Sheppard & Greene Pet Products, Inc.
PO Box 330787
Miami, FL 33233-0787
800-851-6661

Ferrets are burrowing animals by nature, and this nifty toy from Sheppard & Greene Pet Products lets them do just that. The All Clear! Ferret Freeway is a 20-foot length of clear flexible tubing with a 4-inch diameter. Watch your ferrets crawl, run, and chase each other through the clear tube. You can leave the tube at its original length or cut it into shorter lengths. The All Clear! Ferret Freeway can be connected to other Sheppard & Greene ferret toys to create a whole system of tunnels for your fuzzy friends. Comes with fun decals. It's the only toy our ferrets have not lost interest in.

Ralph's Review: "These tubes are very fun! I like to chase Marshmallow through them. Sometimes I even go in all by myself, lie on my back, and squiggle through. Every ferret should have these!"

You saw it here in Modern Ferret!

• GET FERRET POSTERS FOR YOUR WALLS •

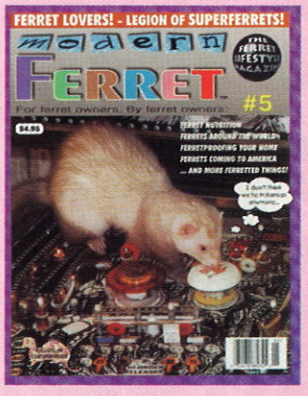
I told you they grow in cans!
• 20" by 30" full color • $6.00 each + shipping

***What's Your Color?* (chart depicts various colors)**
• 24" by 36" full color • $12.95 each + shipping

Shipping & Handling:
$4.00 shipping for 1 to 5 posters mix/match

see ordering address below

• GET YOUR *MODERN FERRET* BACK ISSUES •



Get more great ferret info right away!
Order *Modern Ferret* back issues!

$5.95* each, while supplies last

***US Shipping included**

Issues # 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are available!

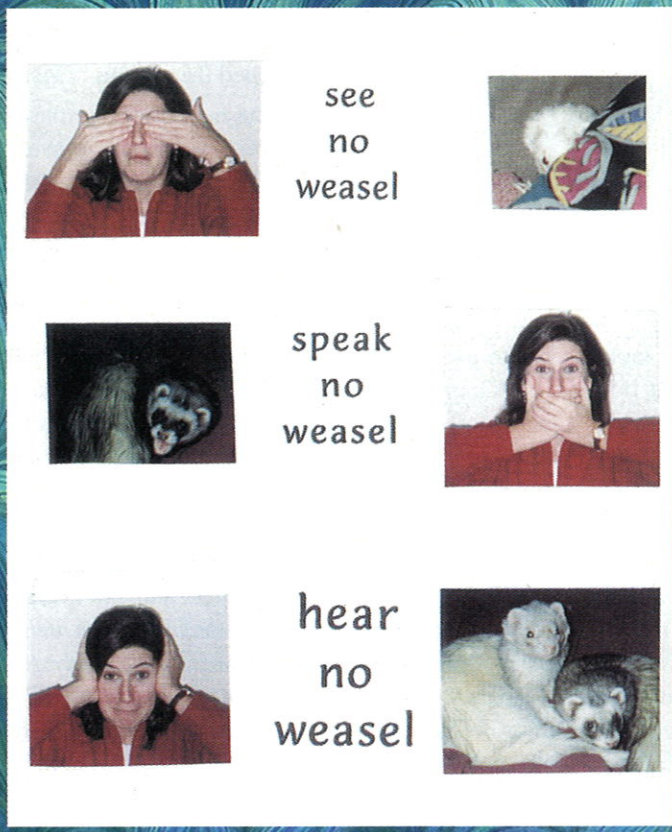
Please print neatly!

Send back issue and poster orders to:

Modern Ferret Dept M9
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY
11762

Please allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery.

READER ART



The Reader Art Contest!
This issue's featured artist:
Amy Ludwig
of Chicago IL

The Reader Art Contest
is sponsored by:
Discount Master
Animal Care Catalog

DISCOUNT MASTER
ANIMAL CARE CATALOG

Well, what did you think of this issue? Drop us a note and let us know what you liked or disliked! We're always trying to improve!

Modern Ferret
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762

Modern Ferret's Mission Statement

Modern Ferret **is a bi-monthly color magazine for ferret owners by ferret owners. We are independent and not affiliated with any group or organization. However, we strongly encourage our readers to become involved with and support any local, regional, or national groups/rescues/shelters they choose. *Modern Ferret* promotes the positive image of domestic ferrets as pets by providing a popular forum for the discussion of ferret-related issues. Our editorial focus is the enjoyment of the ferret as a pet. We'll provide ferret-oriented entertainment such as interviews and articles about movies, tricks, photography, traveling, pet care, new products, and more. We'll also serve as a forum for presenting the latest medical information about ferrets—on both the veterinary and pet-owner levels. We'll produce quality products to further promote ferrets as enjoyable and popular pets. We hope to raise the general public's awareness and education level about ferrets as pets by providing a vibrant forum with a visual appeal. Our graphics will try to capture the fun-loving, playful nature of ferrets in every issue.**
For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™

THE FERRET GENERAL STORE

Sheppard & Greene
PET PRODUCTS
A blend of three different shapes
Fig flavoring-with natural spices added for great taste!
Complete and balanced diet for all life stages
NUTRI-LIFE
Growth and Maintenance Formula
Premium Blend
FERRET FOOD

Sheppard & Greene
PET PRODUCTS

NUTRI-LIFE GROWTH AND MAINTENANCE FERRET FOOD—*for all life stages*
MAXI-LIFE REDUCED FAT AND CALORIE FERRET FOOD—*for senior ferrets*

- *Fig Flavoring-with natural spices added-for great taste!*
- *Blend of three different shapes-for great appeal!*
- *Optimum levels of essential fatty acids!*
- *Fortified with taurine*
- *Added kelp and yeast*
- *Naturally preserved with vitamin E*
- *No artificial flavors or colorings*

ALL-NEW

FERRET FIESTA GOURMET TREATS

- *Peanut -butter*
- *Carob-raisin*
- *Ferret bite-sized morsels*
- *Vitamin enriched-all natural*

KOZY KORNER FERRET LITTER

- *Dual-action odor controls for ferrets*
  - *-Ferret waste matter*
  - *-Ferret glandular secretions*
- *Maximum absorption*
- *Dust-free, non-allergenic*
- *Biodegradable--recycled newspaper*

ALL NEW THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED PREMIUM LINE OF FERRET PRODUCTS

KOZY KORNER LITTER PAN--NEW, INNOVATIVE, CORNER-STYLE DESIGN
KOZY KORNER SLEEP PRODUCTS--DENIM PLUS
Super colors, washable fabric, luxurious snuggly sherpa lining

- *Standard and Deluxe hammocks*
- *Sleep sack*
- *Tunnel*
- *Karrier–Shoulder carrier plus deluxe sleep sack*

FERRET FACTS-INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO
FERRET HARNESS AND BELL WITH 72" LEAD

- *Adjustable velcro "H" shaped military webbing for safe fit*

ALL CLEAR! FERRET FREEWAY- ***Toy system, expandable, integrated***

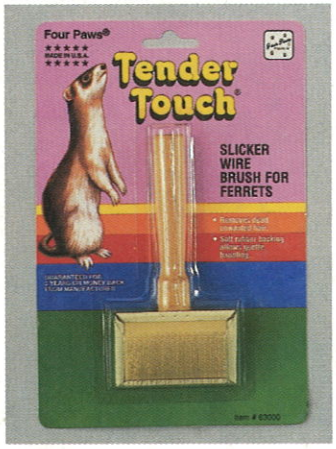
- *Ferret freeway-20 feet of all clear, flexible tubing*
- *Rolling roundhouse ball*
- *Ferret Krazy ball*

FOR INFORMATION ON PRODUCT AVAILABILITY AND SPECIFICATIONS, PLEASE CALL SHEPPARD & GREENE PET PRODUCTS

800-851-6661

FOUR PAWS® FERRET PRODUCTS

Quality products designed with your ferret in mind.



Your "Modern Ferret" deserves products designed specifically with the ferret in mind. Look no further than Four Paws® brand ferret products including:

Tender Touch® Ferret Brush

Ferret Glow® Dry Shampoo Powder

Ferret Deodorizing Spray

Ferret Glow® Shampoo and Deodorizer

Ferret Hammock

Ferret Play Tunnel

Ferret Coat™ Food Supplement

Four Paws® Products Ltd.
50 Wireless Blvd.
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788
Tel: (516) 434-1100
Fax: (516) 434-1183

Four Paws® Products Ltd.

Crunchy Concepts Inc.
Modern Ferret Magazine
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762

Frank 'n' Fritter™

Printed in Canada

IF YOU HAVE MOVED FROM THIS ADDRESS PLEASE WRITE & LET US KNOW!

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
Plattsburgh NY 12901
PERMIT NO. 93

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed